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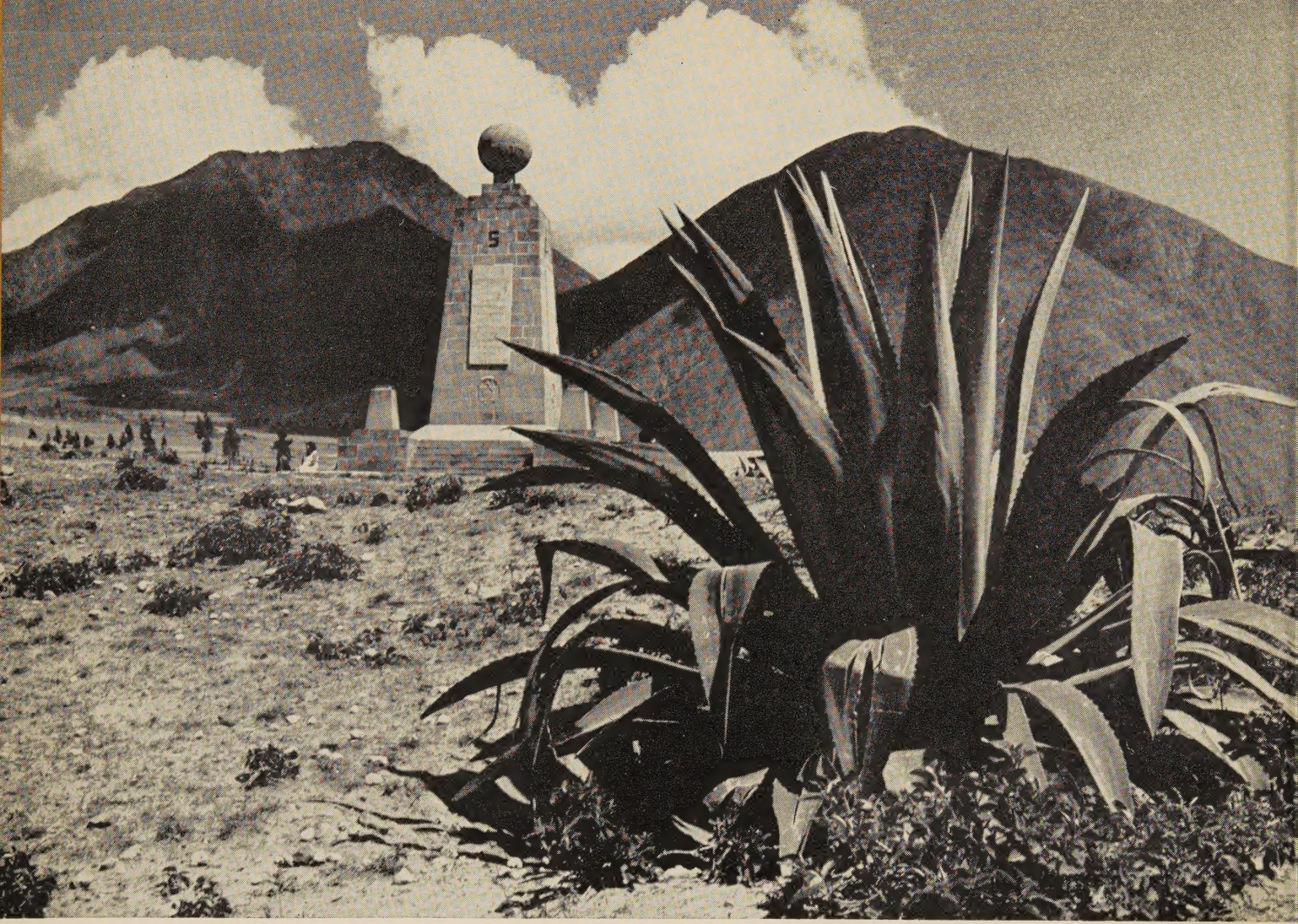

The Equator Monument

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ECUADOR

AMERICAN REPUBLICS SERIES

No. 9

1960

PAN AMERICAN UNION
GENERAL SECRETARIAT
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS SERIES incorporates the basic information on each of the 21 member states of the Organization of American States formerly presented in two separate series: the American Nations and Travel in the Americas Series, both of which will be superseded by the new series upon its completion.

This series is prepared under the direction of Lyn S. Manduley, Chief Publications Editor, Editorial Division, Department of Public Information, Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.; this number, by Rosemary S. Kennedy.

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Mt. Chimborazo

"Ecuador is the most wonderful diorama in the world," declared an enthusiastic visitor to the "Land of the Equator" more than a hundred years ago. Today the same panorama of breath-taking scenery, colorful Indian life, and masterpieces of art and architecture evoke the wonderment and admiration of the world's most sophisticated travelers.

Whether you visit the country on business or pleasure, Ecuador will surprise you. Viewing the Ecuadorean diorama from the air, the traveler looks down one minute on majestic snow-crowned volcanoes, and the next on a sea of steaming green jungle. There's probably no other country on the globe where one can see and do so much in so short a time. Without a topcoat, you are likely to shiver with cold at the Equator Monument located high in the Andes—contrary to the popular conception that this imaginary line crosses only the world's hottest areas. Ecuadoreans will tell you that climate in their country is measured by the kilometer, for the extremes of temperature and vegetation are determined mainly by altitude.

This fascinating country straddling the Equator at latitude zero lies 3,000 miles due south of New York City. It occupies a wedge-shaped area on the northwest coast of South America and is bounded on the north by Colombia, on the east and south by Peru, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. The national territory includes numerous islands, most of them in archipelagos, the largest being Colón Archipelago, better known as the Galápagos Islands. Close to the mainland and forming part of El Oro Province is the tropical Archipelago of Jambelí, divided by numerous canals. Puná is the largest island in the Gulf of Guayaquil.

The backbone of the country is formed by two parallel ranges of the Andes—the Cordillera Oriental or eastern range, and the Cordillera Occidental, western, which run from north to south through the center of the country for a distance of about 500 miles. The two cordilleras divide the country into three distinct geographical regions: the hot, humid, coastal lowlands bordering the Pacific; the inter-Andean or highland section called the Sierra; and the Oriente, or eastern lowlands, having a tropical climate and heavy rainfall.

Twenty-two lofty peaks, ranging from 14,000 to more than 20,000 feet in altitude, dominate the Andean ranges and have challenged many a mountain climber. Because most of them are volcanic, Baron Alexander Von Humboldt called the two ranges of cones with their intervening valley the "Avenue of Volcanoes." The most famous of the peaks are Mt. Chimborazo, which rises almost four miles above sea level to 20,576 feet; and Mt. Cotopaxi at 19,613 feet, the highest active volcano in the world.

Occupying the region between the Andean cordilleras are ten or more *hoyas,* or basins, formed by transverse ridges and drained by rivers. Quito, capital of the republic, and the principal highland cities of Ambato, Riobamba, and Cuenca are situated in these basins at varying altitudes. There are a number of beautiful lagoons and lakes in the highlands, as well as thermal and mineral springs. Although entirely within the Torrid Zone, the highland region enjoys a temperate climate the year round. The rainy season (corresponding to winter) is November to May; the dry season (summer) is July to November.

Air travelers who fly direct to Quito find themselves in one of the Hemisphere's loftiest capitals, almost two miles above sea level and only 15 miles south of the Equator. Yet it is forever springtime in this verdant sun-drenched valley which spreads over the foothills of majestic Mt. Pichincha. A totally different aspect of Ecuador is presented to those who enter the country at the port of Guayaquil. The first scene in the Ecuadorean diorama that unfolds as one approaches Guayaquil, either by plane or by ship, is one of green jungles and turbid water. The teeming Guayas River, three miles wide at its mouth, pours its waters into the Gulf of Guayaquil at Puná Island. Here ocean liners anchor and their passengers transfer to the fast river boats that transport them 33 miles up the river to the great port city which is the gateway to the republic.

Still another view in Ecuador's scenic diorama is presented by the vast region called the *Oriente,* because it lies east of the Andes. A network of waterways cuts the endless green carpet of forest and jungle that stretches eastward from the foothills of the Andes and forms part

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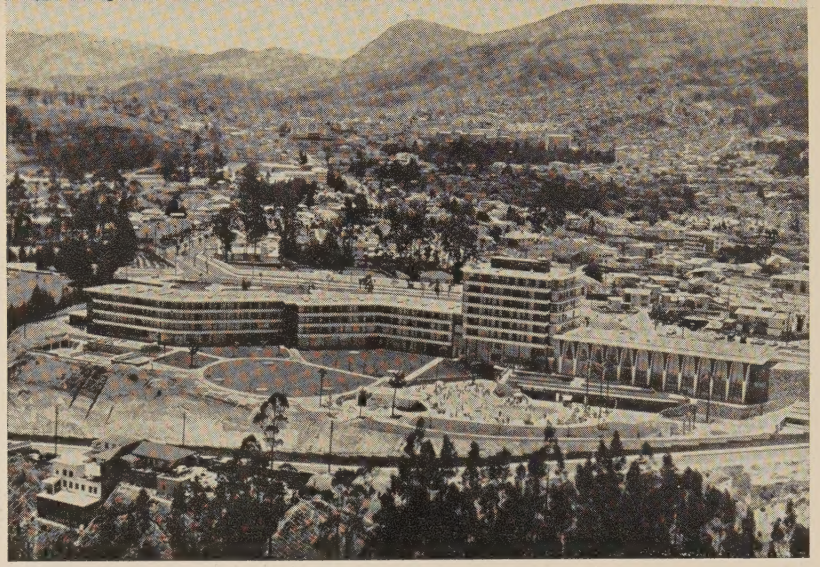


The new Hotel Quito

of the Upper Amazon Basin. Ecuador's river systems have played an important part in the country's development from early colonial days, when waterways were the main routes of exploration and settlement.

For more than four centuries Ecuador has attracted many of the world's greatest explorers, geographers, naturalists, and scientists and has been the source of vital discoveries of benefit to mankind. It was in Ecuador that the true shape of the earth was established by the eminent French mathematician Charles Marie de la Condamine, who in 1735 headed the first scientific expedition to South America. From its headquarters in Quito, this expedition measured an arc of the meridian at the Equator, the measurement upon which the metric system was based. In 1797 Alexander von Humboldt, the great German explorer and geographer, visited Ecuador. He discovered the Antarctic current which bathes the Pacific Coast as far north as Ecuador's Cape Pasado; the current was later named for him.

Few, if any, countries in the world possess as many varieties of native plants and trees as Ecuador, including rare species of industrial and medicinal value. Mankind has derived incalculable benefits, for example, from Ecuador's *quina* tree, source of quinine; it later received the name of *cinchona*, derived from that of the Countess of Chinchón, the wife of a Spanish viceroy of Peru who, in 1631, was cured of malaria by a native remedy made from the bark of the quina tree when she fell ill en route to Quito. More than two hundred years later the famous English botanist Richard Spruce gathered in the forests of Loja and Bolívar Provinces the seed and plants which were the beginning of the great cinchona plantations of India and Ceylon.

Quito

In Quito, the past merges with the present and the fabulous becomes reality. Centuries before modern Quito was founded by the Spaniards, it was the capital of the Indian kingdom of Quitu and its 40 provinces. Conquered about 1,000 A.D. by the Caras Indians from the coast, Quitu later bowed to the mighty Incas who made it the capital of their northern kingdom.

Only two other pre-Columbian capitals in the Western Hemisphere are as old as Quito—Mexico City, the Aztec capital, and Cuzco, the first Inca capital. Centuries before the coming of the Spaniards, different Indian nations, among them the Quitu people for whom Quito was named, built their cities in this fertile basin high in the Andes. Today the mountains around Quito are still terraced and cultivated as they were in the days of Atahualpa, last of the great Inca rulers. When the Spaniards under Sebastián de Benalcázar prepared to attack the city, its Indian defenders burned it.

A panoramic view of Quito

Quito rose from its ashes to become one of the most beautiful of Spain's New World cities. The Spanish colonial city was founded by Benalcázar in 1534 and soon became an artistic center. The fame of Quito's magnificent seventeenth-century churches spread abroad and the artists and craftsmen of the Quito school won lasting renown.

Quito has a scenic setting of unsurpassed natural beauty. Surrounded by an undulating checkerboard pattern of grain fields, the city is overshadowed by the slumbering volcano Pichincha with its twin peaks named Rucu (Old One) and Guagua (Young One). Like its treasured heirlooms, Quito has acquired a mellow patina through the centuries and has preserved its typical Spanish colonial character despite much modernization.

Magnificent old churches and monasteries tower above flower-filled patios and stone plazas; narrow cobble-stoned streets are lined with graceful arcades; and the red tile roofs of the low colonial buildings are mossy with age. But despite its air of antiquity, the life of the city is active from early morning, when the ancient church bells cut the clear, crisp air with their clanging, to late afternoon. Remote and inaccessible by modern transportation until the twentieth century, the capital is served today by domestic and international airlines as well as the Pan American Highway and the Guayaquil-Quito Railway. Although tourists and visitors may hire a taxi or take a bus for sightseeing, the best way to enjoy Quito is to take leisurely walks through its delightful plazas and quaint narrow streets, stopping at the principal buildings of historical and architectural interest.

The heart of the city is Plaza Independencia, dominated by the stately Cathedral with its gray stone porticos and plaques on the outer walls, which list the names of the Spanish founders of Quito; inside is the tomb of the great patriot and general Antonio José de Sucre, hero of the battle of Pichincha. Also facing this historic plaza are the Municipal Palace or City Hall, the Archbishop's Palace, and the Government Palace. The last, now completely renovated and remodeled, contains the residence of the president, a salon for Cabinet meetings, reception rooms, and banquet halls. Dating back to the seventeenth century, this venerable landmark of government has a simple white façade distinguished by its portico and second-story balcony, both of which have been preserved in the process of renovating and expanding the interior.

A stroll down Calle de la Ronda, one of the city's oldest streets, will take you to Santo Domingo Square and to Carrera Guayaquil, the principal shopping district, thence to the tree-shaded Parque Alameda. Located in this section are the Astronomical Observatory, the oldest of its kind in South America; the School of Fine Arts; and the heroic monument to Simón Bolívar, the Liberator.

In sharp contrast to Quito's well-preserved examples of colonial architecture are the modern structures which have transformed certain sections of the city in recent years. Stimulated by the need for more ample accommodations for the Eleventh Inter-American Conference of the Organization of American States, scheduled for 1961, the government accelerated its ambitious construction program in order to complete the new Legislative Palace, or Congress. Among other new public buildings are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Law School, and the headquarters of the Social Insurance Fund. These are outstanding not only because of their modern construction, but also because of such decorative details as bas-reliefs in stone, murals, and Venetian glass mosaics.

Visitors to Quito should take time to visit the interior of the city's most famous churches and monasteries, for they are repositories of priceless examples of Spanish colonial art and sculpture. Largest of Quito's convents is San Francisco, which occupies the full length of the block on the plaza of the same name. This massive edifice of stone has two great bell towers crowning its Italian baroque façade. Among its many treasures are a group of statues of the Virgin Mary and the Twelve Apostles carved by a humble Indian named Manuel Chili, better known by his Quechua nickname *Caspicara*, or "Rough Face," because of his pock-marked skin. On the walls are some paintings by Miguel de Santiago, one of Latin America's foremost colonial painters. The monastery adjoining the church is the first one of the Franciscan order erected in South America. Built around quiet

Quito's principal avenue

A typical home of the colonial period

Statue of Simón Bolívar and the National Red Cross building

patios, it served as the basic model for religious edifices throughout the Spanish colonial realm. It, too, contains a wonderful collection of religious art, but its doors are closed to women.

The Jesuit church of La Compañía on Calle García Moreno is another ancient edifice of enduring beauty. Its Spanish baroque façade is so intricately carved that it resembles filigree. Its interior is beautifully decorated in gold leaf and red *plateresco,* and on special occasions a tabernacle incrusted with precious jewels is used. The monastery of San Agustín, a block from the Plaza de la Independencia, is of historic as well as religious interest; for it was here that the treaty of independence from Spain was signed. The remains of many of the heroes of the war of independence rest in the same monastery. In addition to its superb woodcarving overlaid with gold leaf, the eighteenth-century church of La Merced contains the oldest clock in Quito, the twin of London's "Big Ben" constructed in 1817.

As the cultural as well as the political capital of the republic, Quito also has outstanding museums of colonial and modern art, as well as private collections of paintings, sculpture, and archaeology. Center of higher education is the University City in the northern residential section of Quito.

The outskirts of Quito, particularly the northern sector, reflect the city's rapid growth in recent years and the increase in population to more than 400,000. This has been accompanied by the expansion of residential suburbs northward into a luxuriant plain, commanding a magnificent view of the eastern cordillera. Wide avenues, parks, embassies, and attractive private homes reflect the prosperity and gracious living of modern Quito. The new Hotel Quito, also located on the northern edge of the city, is equipped with a heated and plastic-roofed swimming pool, in addition to its 250 rooms and cabañas.

Quito affords a variety of entertainment for its residents and visitors alike. The Country Club, with an 18-hole golf course with sand "greens," has a reputation for good food and marvelous scenery. Bullfights and cockfighting are the most popular spectator sports. On Sunday afternoons there are horse races. Tennis and swimming can also be enjoyed at Quito's excellent tennis courts and swimming pools.

Mt. Tungurahua forms part of the "Avenue of Volcanoes"

El Camino Real

Long before the Pan American Highway was ever dreamed of, much of its present route followed *el Camino Real,* the "royal road" of the Inca Empire which linked Cuzco with the northern capital of Quitu. Instead of being a road for wheeled vehicles, el Camino Real was a footway, for the horse and wheel were unknown to the Incas. Since they had no written language, important messages were transmitted by means of a system of relay runners known as *chasquis.* The road was paved with cobblestones and had suspension bridges and inns, or supply stations, along the route.

Today the Pan American Highway, which traverses the country from north to south, is truly a royal road of spectacular scenic beauty. The journey from beginning to end is thrilling, taking the traveler from the cloud-swept plateau called the *altiplano* down through the incomparable Avenue of Volcanoes to the tropical jungles of southern Ecuador. The Pan American Highway passes through all the principal cities of the Andean highlands, in addition to the capital of the republic, and is linked to the port city of Guayaquil by connecting highways.

Running parallel to the highway along almost two-thirds of its entire route is the Guayaquil-Quito Railway, one of the most brilliant feats of railway engineering in the Western Hemisphere; it stands as a monument to the enterprising former president of Ecuador, Eloy Alfaro, who first dreamed of the project, and to the brothers Arthur and John Harman who built it despite tremendous odds. The grave of Arthur Archer Harman is near the station at Huigra. He and his brother were Virginians—one a financier, and the other an engineer. The completion of the railway in 1908 marked a turning point in the unification and economic progress of the country.

Llamas are native to the Andean highlands

Cities of the Andean Highlands

12 Motorists traveling south from the Colombian border on the Pan American Highway soon find themselves on the "roof" of Ecuador at an altitude of more than 9,000 feet above sea level. The first important city below the border is Tulcán, the center of a rich farming area and well-known for its excellent dairy products. This Temperate-Zone city north of the Equator is capital of the province of Carchi. Beyond Tulcán, the road climbs to the top of the Páramo del Boliche, a flat inclined plateau rising to a height of 12,200 feet at El Angel, the summit. This lonely, desolate region is bare except for occasional clumps of cactus. From here the road winds downward, skirting deep precipices to Chota, inhabited by the descendants of former slaves. Although they dress and speak like the mountain Indians, they still retain some of the tribal customs of their African ancestors.

The next city of importance on the route is aristocratic Ibarra, poised serenely at the foot of a great purple mountain. Founded in 1606, this old colonial city is capital of the Province of Imbabura and center of the Ecuadorean lake region; it was largely destroyed by an earthquake in 1868. Long a wood-carving center, Ibarra's craftsmen are noted for their carved images as well as for exquisite silver work. About five miles from the center of town there are some ruins revered by the natives as the birthplace of Princess Paccha, mother of the Inca Atahualpa, and of Atahualpa himself. Also near Ibarra is Yaguarocha (Lake of Blood), so named because, according to legend, its waters turned red when the victorious Incas threw their slain enemies, the Caras, into the blue-grey lake. Cotacachi, off the beaten track but an interesting Indian town, produces leather goods, cotton textiles, and woolen ponchos; it is noted for its hot springs and the nearby waterfall of Peguche.

The beautiful cone of Mt. Imbabura looming in the distance signals your approach to the valley of Otavalo, which cradles in its rolling landscape sparkling San Pablo Lake and a town which has come to be known throughout the Hemisphere for its craft work and Indian market. Tourists generally make a point of visiting Otavalo in order to go to the weekly fair, which begins at the crack of dawn each Saturday in a quaint colonial plaza. The round trip may be made from Quito in a day, either by automobile or by *autocarril* (auto rail car).

Long before Otavalo was settled by the conquering Spaniards, the Indians brought their produce to the village market to trade it for products brought by other Indians from as far off as the headwaters of the Amazon. Descendants of the Caras, the Otavalos are a short, stocky people, known for their cleanliness, intelligence, and resourcefulness. Unlike most other Indian tribes, they have been able to purchase small farms with the profits from the sale of their textiles and farm products. Primarily farmers, they are also skilled weavers, using the wool of the sheep they raise for making worsted and tweed suitings. Their ponchos, shawls, and blankets are fine and durable and much in demand.

Early on Saturday morning the Indians come down from the hills to bring their wares to market. Some walk, some ride their burros, and some come guiding their livestock down the steep cobbled streets leading to the market square. One marvels at the dexterity of the women who walk briskly along, carrying their babies slung on their backs in a *manta*, or shawl, and twirling the *pushka* to spin the yarn they carry under their arms. The bright red and blue ponchos of the men mingling with the em-

broidered blouses, skirts, and mantas of the women give a kaleidoscopic effect to the moving throng. Both the men and the women wear broad-brimmed hats of stiff felt, which they prize very dearly.

The market square is filled with stalls where the native produce is neatly displayed. In one row are ponchos, shawls, and woolen fabrics resembling English tweeds; in another row, cotton homespuns and rush hats made by the Indians living near Lake San Pablo. You will also find pottery dishes, rope made from the fiber of the *cabuya* cactus, and medicinal cures for liver ailments, gout, or heart trouble; for the Indians believe in the curative properties of insects, herbs, and tobacco. In the section reserved for vegetables and grains, the policeman who checks weights and measures presides over the scales. By seven o'clock most of the better quality products have been sold, and by noon the market place is almost deserted.

Marking the corridor of volcanoes to the south is Mt. Cayambe, rising above the town of the same name; from this point, the remainder of the trip by car to Quito takes around three hours. About 15 miles north of Quito travelers cross the Equator, marked by a granite monument which rises from a barren, windy plateau. Many visitors like to have their photographs taken astride the famous line, with one foot in the Northern Hemisphere and the other in the Southern.

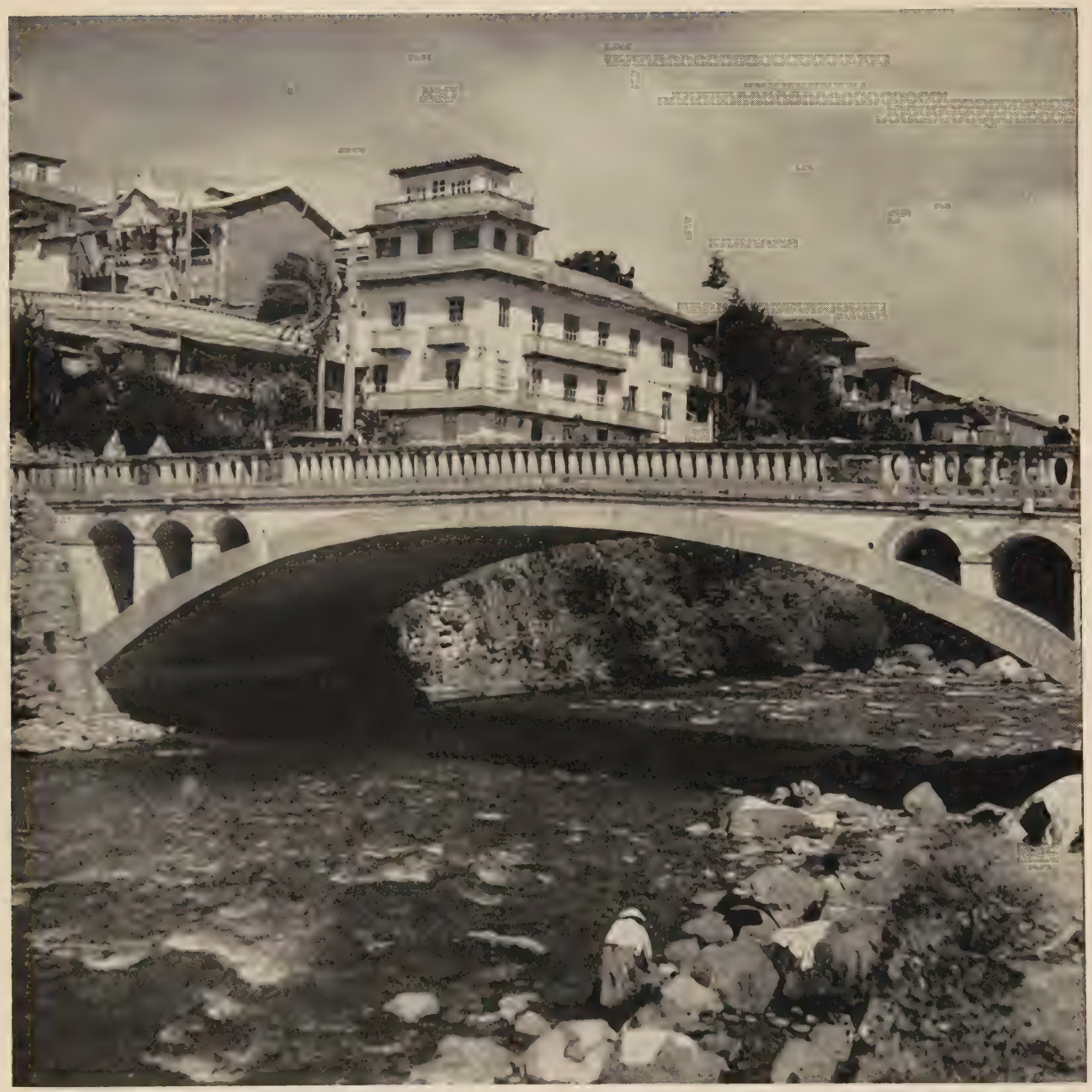
The trip to the Equator Monument from Quito is only one of many short excursions that visitors may take in the environs of the capital. Another favorite spot to visit is the village of Guápulo on the road to Cumbaya. Here you may see one of the oldest churches in Ecuador, famous for its beautiful seventeenth-century paintings. Popular with Quiteños is nearby Machachi, which has an excellent bathing pool and, on Sundays, exciting cockfights. The country's finest mineral springs are located near Machachi, in a region having ancient burial mounds antedating the Inca civilization.

A short distance east of Quito, one enters the beautiful valley of Los Chillos on a road lined by adobe walls covered much of the year with a profusion of bright geraniums and vivid bougainvillea; stately rows of

Cotopaxi Volcano forms a majestic backdrop for Latacunga

eucalyptus trees stand like sentinels along the route and others rise gracefully above the grain fields that spread over the rolling valley like patchwork. Everything grows abundantly on the fertile lands of the haciendas, many of which date from colonial times. The little village of Sangolquí and the mineral springs resorts of Tingo and Alangasi are interesting stopping places in the valley.

Some 40 miles south of Quito the road begins to climb from the warm, sun-drenched valleys to the bleak, frigid *páramo* dominated by Mt. Cotopaxi. This sector of the highway, one of the most spectacular in the country, climbs to 11,000 feet above sea level. Driving through the clouds that often shroud the páramo gives many travelers the sensation of being "out of this world." It is not unusual to sight the king of birds, the condor of the Andes. From the lofty páramo, the road drops to an altitude of between eight and nine thousand feet as it approaches the city of Latacunga, surrounded by fertile farm lands and extensive haciendas in the shadow of the volcano Cotopaxi. Nowhere in Ecuador is the scenery more magnificent than in the region of Latacunga and Ambato, where the Avenue of Volcanoes is marked by four snow-capped peaks in addition to Cotopaxi.



Ambato, capital of Tungurahua Province, is called "the garden city" of Ecuador because of its fertile and luxuriant countryside. It is the fruit-growing center for the entire country; its orchards abound in both Temperate Zone and sub-tropical fruits and supply local canneries. Vegetables are also produced and canned in large quantities. Fourth city of the republic in commercial importance, Ambato is well supplied with water power for its industries, which include tanneries, a rubber factory and textile mills. This beautiful city, at 8,400 feet above sea level, has a delightful, temperate climate the year round. Ambato was the birthplace of one of the greatest of Spanish-American writers, Juan Montalvo (1833-89). A statue erected in his honor overlooks the lovely flower-filled central plaza. On Monday, which is market day in Ambato, hundreds of Indians gather from the surrounding area to sell or exchange their produce. The stalls are laden with tempting apples, pears, strawberries, chirimoyas, granadillas, and masses of flowers.

The trip to Ambato may be made by train on the Guayaquil-Quito Railway. Whether one travels by rail or highway, the trip from Ambato south has all the thrills of an Andean roller coaster ride. The railway climbs and descends the Andean ranges at grades reaching five-and-a-half per cent, via numerous tunnels, bridges, and switchbacks. No less thrilling is the route of the Pan American Highway which winds its way through rock-walled canyons and negotiates countless hairpin and figure-eight curves in its serpentine course through the mountains. South of Ambato are two of Ecuador's most important and interesting cities—Riobamba and Cuenca.

Halfway between Guayaquil and Quito, on the highway and railway, is the beautiful colonial city of Riobamba. It is the capital of Chimborazo Province, named for Ecuador's loftiest peak, one of several snow-capped giants that give Riobamba its spectacularly beautiful setting. Riobamba is the center of a rich agricultural district which produces grain, vegetables, and dairy products. The city's principal manufacturing industries are woolen and cotton textiles, carpets, liquors, and leather goods.

Third largest city of the republic and capital of Azuay Province, historic Cuenca was founded in 1557 by Spanish settlers on the ruins of ancient Tomebamba, where the Inca Huayna Cápac was residing when he received news of the arrival of the *conquistadores* off the coast. This inland city, long isolated in the beautiful Andes-rimmed valley of Paucarbamba, still preserves its seventeenth-century Spanish atmosphere despite its modern progress. In addition to its many notable examples of Spanish colonial architecture, Cuenca has a vast new cathedral of late Gothic design. A center of learning since the colonial era, Cuenca has given the republic many of its foremost writers, poets, jurists, and diplomats. The beauty and spirit of this venerable city are well expressed by Albert H. Franklin who wrote in his book *Ecuador:* "Cuenca is a jewel in a sparkling jewel setting, and, like all jewels, is precious. The filigreed ornament, the lilt of the Cuencano's speech, the spiced, eucalyptus-laden air he breathes, are only superficial signs. Cuenca is baroque, not only in architecture, art, and literature, but in its very soul. Cuenca is seventeenth-century Spain under glass."

The chief industry of the city and the surrounding region is the weaving of toquilla straw hats; more than half the country's entire output comes from here. The hat-makers of neighboring towns converge on the provincial capital on Thursdays, bringing their output to the weekly market where wholesalers and exporters are eager buyers. This colorful fair is full of interest, for the Indians come dressed in their best—the women wearing tiers of voluminous skirts with flower-embroidered hems, and beautiful handwoven shawls (known locally as *macanas*) bordered in mesh lace ending in heavy fringe. A smaller fair takes place on Sundays.

Generations of craftsmen have kept alive the colonial art of woodcarving and silver work. Other items produced by Cuenca's industrious craftsmen are interesting articles of marble, jasper, and alabaster; but the most highly-prized items for collectors are the beautifully carved and decorated polychrome figures and religious images. Other industries are the production and shipping of marble, hides, cinchona, and tropical fruits. There are interesting provincial towns, several important ruins, and

Sculptured hedges in the cemetery of Tulcán

other picturesque spots outside Cuenca, which one may visit by bus or private car. The greatest monument left by the Incas in all Ecuador is the citadel of Ingapirca, which dominates a promontory on the cold bleak páramo, a two-hour ride on horseback from the village of Tambo on the Pan American Highway north of Biblián.

A road branching off the Pan American Highway at Descanso takes you into the warm valleys of the Paute and Gualaceo rivers, an important gold-producing region. This is also the gateway to the tropical lowlands of Zamora-Chinchipe Province, domain of the Jívaro Indians. The towns of Paute, on the northern branch of the road, and Sigsig at the southern end are known for their Sunday markets, where sizable quantities of panned gold are bought and sold, as well as toquilla hats.

Loja is the last city of importance on the Pan American Highway in the highlands of southern Ecuador. Despite its altitude of 7,000 feet above sea level, Loja has a sub-tropical climate. During the colonial era this town was gay and rich, for it was a trading center on the Spanish "gold road" which passed here on its route to the coast. Every year in September a great fair was held and crowds gathered to trade the silks and spices from abroad for the quinine, coffee, and tobacco which flourished in the rolling hills surrounding the town. Today life in Loja centers around the university, whose fame far outstrips its size.

Guayaquil

Guayaquil was more than eighty years old when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, having been founded in 1537 by Francisco de Orellana; yet there's nothing about the city to suggest antiquity except, perhaps, its name. Guayas and Quil, for whom the city was named, were the Indian chieftain and his wife who, according to legend, committed suicide when the Spaniards invaded their country. Ecuador's first city in size, Guayaquil is also the chief port and commercial center. Its half-million inhabitants are energetic and lively.

Unlike Quito, Guayaquil has a genuinely equatorial climate. This region would be an arid desert, if the cold Humboldt Current flowed northward instead of veering out to sea just below the Gulf of Guayaquil. Visitors who do not like the heat and humidity of the tropics, should plan to arrive in Guayaquil between the months of May and December (the dry season), when the climate is most agreeable.

Although the proud Guayaquileños do not regard their city as a tourist mecca, travelers with a yen to explore will find sights in Guayaquil that they won't see anywhere else on the West Coast: "chocolate-paved" streets, where the aromatic brown beans of cacao are spread out to dry in the sun; stevedores shouldering fifty-foot balsa trees, the lighter-than-cork wood of which Ecuador has a world monopoly; mountains of bananas being stowed in the holds of freighters; exotic orchids and tropical plants; and a dozen luscious fruits practically unknown in North America.

During its long and stormy history, Guayaquil has survived attacks by Indians and buccaneers and repeated devastation by earthquake, fire, and plague. Today, this modern progressive city enjoys a clean bill of health and a thriving commerce. It is the capital of Guayas Province. The leading manufacturing industries are cigars and cigarets, textiles, furniture, shoes, beverages, and food products; soap, toiletries, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals; paints and rubber products; and cement.

Guayaquil's front door is the Malecón "Simón Bolívar," a broad boulevard extending along the Guayas River,

and its back door the Estero Salado, a salt-water estuary that runs in from the sea. Connecting the two and crossing the city from east to west is Ninth of October Avenue. The principal public buildings, hotels, and shops are on or near these two main thoroughfares.

A good starting point for sightseeing is the Rotunda, the city's most historic landmark, situated on the Malecón facing Ninth of October Avenue. Here a semi-circular colonnade partially encircles the statue of the great liberators Simón Bolívar and José de San Martín, whose epochal meeting took place in Guayaquil on July 26, 1822. The Rotunda faces a beautiful garden promenade called Paseo de las Colonias, which occupies the central section of the Malecón. At the foot of the City Clock Tower at the southern end of the Paseo is the landing pier, where boat travelers arrive and depart. Across the Malecón, directly in front of the Paseo, are the Government Palace and the City Hall. Be sure to walk through the central arcade of the latter building in order to see the unique carved wooden totem pole, called *palo de brujo* (sorcerer's pole); it is an important archaeological relic of one of the ancient coastal Indian civilizations.

The Guayaquil Yacht Club is located across the Malecón on the waterfront. Opposite the Custom House, at the northern end of the Malecón, is the Plaza Colón and a statue of the city's founder, Francisco de Orellana, marking the site of the final successful settlement. Here, at the base of Santa Ana Hill, you will see the remains of the ancient fortress La Planchada, which bravely defended the harassed little town against a succession of attacks by privateers. Among the notorious freebooters who terrorized colonial Guayaquil in the sixteenth century were Francis Drake, "Peg-Leg" le Clerc, and Captain Rogers, whose ship was piloted by none other than Alexander Selkirk of Robinson Crusoe fame. Skirting the hill along the edge of the Guayas River is the quaint old residential section Las Peñas, with its houses built in Venetian style. A short walk from Plaza Colón is Guayaquil's oldest church, Santo Domingo, dating from 1640.

Farther along Avenida Julian Coronel are the General Hospital, one of the finest on the West Coast, and the General Cemetery. Although cemeteries are not usually

Malecón Simón Bolívar, Guayaquil

Swimming pool in a public park, Guayaquil

included on a sightseeing itinerary, Guayaquil's is an exception. Far from depressing, this one is a place of beauty and especially interesting to foreign visitors because of the unique arrangement of the crypts in tiers above the ground. Many of the mausoleums and statues are truly works of art. At the end of a promenade flanked by magnificent royal palms stands the mausoleum of Vicente Rocafuerte, a former president and a national hero.

The cultural life of the city is centered in the University of Guayaquil, the National Conservatory of Music, the Ecuadorean Fine Arts Association, the Institute of Historical Research, the Casa de la Cultura, libraries, and museums. Of special interest in the Municipal Museum are the archaeological collections of carved stone objects and ceramics antedating the Spanish conquest.

Banks, commercial establishments, and shipping offices bustle by day with the activity of businessmen who take time for morning coffee or a refreshing iced drink in sidewalk cafés beneath shaded arcades. It's pleasant to join the townspeople who promenade along the Malecón after sundown, or in the spacious Plaza Centenario with its historic monument to independence and its fascinating tropical plants. Visitors also enjoy eating at some of the restaurants noted for native and foreign dishes.

All types of sports may be enjoyed in Guayaquil and the leading private clubs are the Tennis Club, Country Club, and Yacht Club. The Olympic Swimming Pool attracts large crowds, as does the new Municipal Sports Stadium. The American Park (along the Estero Salado) is Guayaquil's Coney Island, providing salt-water bathing, sports facilities, and varied amusements. On Sunday afternoons at the Jockey Club, a fashionably-dressed and cosmopolitan set turns out for the races.

The Litoral

The narrow coastal belt which Ecuadoreans call *el litoral* extends roughly 350 miles along the Pacific and varies in width from 50 to 100 miles, encompassing the provinces of Esmeraldas, Manabí, Los Ríos, Guayas, El Oro and parts of neighboring provinces. This vast region of tropical forests, rolling hills, lowlands, and desert comprises approximately a quarter of the national territory. Although the region as a whole is tropical, hot, and humid, the cold Humbodlt Current modifies considerably the heat and humidity of the coast up to Cape Pasado. There is one rainy season, from January to May; the dry season, or summer, is from June to December.

The chief Pacific ports outside Guayaquil are economically important because of the large volume of exports and imports they handle; they also provide Ecuadoreans and foreign visitors with some of the finest resorts and deep-sea fishing on the West Coast. Especially attractive to tourists is Playas, 60 miles from Guayaquil on a good paved road. At the spacious modern Hotel Humboldt you can relax in comfort on broad sun decks overlooking the Gulf of Guayaquil, or take advantage of the hotel's sports facilities. There's deep-sea fishing, yachting, swimming, duck and deer-hunting; also tennis, golf, riding, cricket, and bowling. Another nearby resort frequented by Guayaquileños is Posorja, southeast of Playas, opposite the island of Puná. Salinas, second largest city of the litoral and largest of Ecuador's ocean resorts, is located on Santa Elena peninsula 95 miles from Guayaquil, from which it may be reached on a good paved road. The beautiful crescent-shaped beach on the northern shore of the peninsula is washed by the calm blue-green waters of Santa Elena

Lunch on the terrace of the Humboldt Hotel, Playas

Waterfront scene on Playas Bay

A catch of moonfish

Bay. On the southern side, a rocky promontory is lashed by rough breakers. Visitors enjoy walking through the picturesque fishermen's section to La Puntilla at the end of the peninsula, where there are a lighthouse and extensive salt deposits, from which the port takes its name.

Fishing for black marlin, swordfish, or sailfish is exciting sport during the season, April to December; fishermen may charter special cruisers for fishing trips. Many visitors indulge in the more leisurely and intriguing pastime of hunting treasures in the form of ancient Spanish pesos and doubloons, which are still washed up on the beach from sunken Spanish galleons by the "Easter Tides" in springtime. The nearby port of Libertad is an important refining and shipping center for petroleum products from the Ancón oil fields on the peninsula. For hot sulphur baths, stop at the small spa of San Vicente, on the Guayaquil road about a half-hour's drive from Salinas.

To the north, in Manabí Province, is the busy port of Manta which exports large quantities of coffee, cacao, tagua nuts, shrimp, kapok, castorbeans, and the country's finest toquilla hats. Although not primarily a resort, Manta's excellent beaches and big game fishing attract many visitors. If time permits, you can take an interesting trip by car to the nearby towns of Montecristi and Jipijapa. The latter is the original home of the world famous "Panama" hats, which received that misnomer from United States gold prospectors who bought the hats in Panama while en route to California in the days of the gold rush.

Unless you make a pre-dawn excursion to this area, you are not likely to see the weavers at work on the best hats, for these are woven in the damp atmosphere of early morning or after sundown. Entire families engage in this home industry. A hat may take anywhere from one week to three months to make—the three-hundred-dollar variety requiring the longest period. Most of the export products receive their final blocking in New York, to conform to the dictates of the designers. The test of a superior hat is the absence of small knots, fineness of texture, and whether or not it can be rolled up and passed through a ring.

Portoviejo, 17 miles from Montecristi by road and railway, is the capital of Manabí Province. Founded originally as a port on the Pacific, the town was moved inland in 1628 to escape the depredations of privateers and is today an important hat and basket-weaving center. It is now possible to motor from Quito to the Pacific via the Pan American Highway to Latacunga, thence through Quevedo, Portoviejo, and Montecristi to Manta. Another port-of-call for many coastwise ships is Bahía de Caráquez, some 30 miles north of Manta on the placid bay of the same name; it is the center of rich plantation country producing coffee, cacao, and tagua nuts.

The ports of Esmeraldas and San Lorenzo on the northern litoral, long isolated from the rest of the country by lack of communications, are becoming increasingly important as outlets for the vast, untapped natural resources of Esmeraldas Province, which forms the northwest corner of Ecuador. The balmy tropical town of Esmeraldas, a port of call for coastal shipping, has a unique past. Here the first white men set foot on what is now Ecuador when, in 1526, Pizarro's pilot Bartolomé Ruiz landed with an exploring party from Panama. A rich loot of gold and emeralds taken from the Indian city of Atacames (still in existence), led to a swift visit by Pizarro that same year and the naming of the region Esmeraldas (Land of the Emeralds). Although few of the precious stones were discovered, except for a hoard at Atacames, the province is well named for its emerald green verdure and the great green Río Esmeraldas, which cuts a swath through virgin forests and fertile lowlands on its march to the sea.

Esmeraldas is gaining importance as a shipping port for bananas as well as high-grade tobacco, tagua nuts, and fine hardwoods from the interior. The economic development of this once inaccessible region is being stimulated by the new railway from Quito to the port of San Lorenzo and by a new road between Quinindé and Esmeraldas. The latter provides direct transit from the coast to Quito via Santo Domingo.

The town of Santo Domingo, situated about 65 miles west of Quito in a beautiful jungle forest at the foot of the Andes, is interesting as the domain of the Colorados Indians. This unique tribe, which is rapidly diminishing

A Colorado
Indian in the
jungle

in numbers, was named Colorados, or "red ones," by the Spaniards because of their tribal custom (still practiced) of coloring their bodies from head to foot with a flaming red dye made from the seeds of the native *achiote* plant. To further distinguish themselves, these Indians wear their hair, also dyed red, plastered down in straight stiff bangs which fall like a starched mop over the eyes. The culture of the Colorados never reached a high level and is now declining; however, they have achieved a reputation for friendliness and strict honesty and seldom carry weapons. From Quito, the road to Santo Domingo de los Colorados descends the Andes in a series of hairpin turns, providing an exciting trip and a scenic panorama for travelers with a yen to explore.

The Oriente

A primeval world of virgin forests, exotic animal and plant life, the Oriente is a naturalist's paradise. Among some 600 different types of trees are mahogany, cedar, walnut, camphor, and rubber. Vanilla, cinnamon, sarsaparilla, ipecac, chicle (used to make chewing gum), and barbasco (base for commercial insecticides), are only a few of the countless plants native to this sparsely settled and little known region. The *selva,* as the tropical forests are called in Spanish, abounds in many species of wild life including puma, tapir, deer, and jaguar.

The principal inhabitants of the Oriente are primitive Indians, including the Jívaros who long ago gained fame as head-hunters. The Jívaros' zeal for warfare, carried on mostly within their own ranks, stems from their age-long struggle for survival against the enveloping jungle and their constant fight against "evil spirits."

The great waterways of the Oriente provide the only means of transportation and communication within the region. The principal rivers forming part of the Amazon system are the Napo, Pastaza, and Curaray. The few roads leading into the Oriente do not penetrate far from the chief points of access: Quito, Baños, Cuenca, Riobamba, Loja, and Salcedo. One of the most interesting excursions you can make by car into the Oriente—and one of the easiest—is the trip from Ambato to Puyo on one of the oldest roads into the jungle. As one travels eastward from the Andean highlands, the Ecuadorean diorama unfolds in all its scenic variations within a distance of less than a hundred miles.

Unless the round trip is made in one day, the best place to stop overnight is the popular resort of Baños, which takes its name from the numerous springs and pools of hot and cold mineral waters. The green mountain setting of Baños, accented by the ribbon-like waterfall called Velo de la Novia (the Bride's Veil), and its pleasant chalets are reminiscent of Switzerland. The *naranjilla* fruit, another of Ecuador's unique products and one from which a delicious beverage is made, is native to this idyllic region. Deep gorges, green walls of exuberant vegetation, rushing rivers, crystal cascades, projecting rock ledges, and hanging bridges make this descent into the jungles of the Amazon a thrilling experience.

The Haunted Islands

Originally named Galápagos by the Spaniards for the huge turtles *(galápagos)* they found there, these islands were later called *Las Islas Encantadas* (the Bewitched Islands) by a Spanish sea captain, because his ship was caught in the churning sea produced by the meeting of the Humboldt and El Niño Currents; to the perplexed sailors, the islands themselves seemed to be moving, hence "bewitched" or "enchanted." They were officially named the Colón (Columbus) Archipelago by the Republic of Ecuador, which established its claim to the islands in 1832.

Situated in the Pacific Ocean about 500 miles west of the Ecuadorean mainland and 850 miles south of the Panama Canal, the group consists of 13 principal islands and some 47 smaller ones, with a total area of more than 3,000 square miles of land. Called "five and twenty heaps of cinders" by the novelist Herman Melville because of their volcanic origin, the islands are bleak, barren, and rocky.

Of the many scientific expeditions which have explored this "lost world" of flora and fauna, the most historic was that of the *Beagle,* carrying aboard the young Charles Darwin as ship's naturalist, in 1835. Darwin's epochal theory of natural selection, set forth in *The Origin of*

Many of these tortoises of the Galápagos Islands weigh 400 pounds

the Species, grew out of his observations and discoveries in the Galápagos archipelago.

In his journal of the voyage Darwin pointed out the unique nature of the islands: "The natural history of these islands is eminently curious . . . Most of the organic productions are aboriginal creations, found nowhere else; there is even a difference between the inhabitants of the different islands; yet all show a marked relationship with those of America, though separated from that continent by an open space of ocean, between 500 and 600 miles in width . . . Seeing every height crowned with its crater, and the boundaries of most of the lava-streams still distinct, we are led to believe that within a period, geologically recent, the unbroken ocean was here spread out. Hence, both in space and time, we seem to be brought somewhat near to that fact—that mystery of mysteries—the first appearance of new beings on this earth."

Most intriguing of all to scientists and visitors alike are the islands' giant tortoises, some weighing up to 400 pounds and living to the ripe old age of two to three centuries; the land and marine iguanas, and giant lizards out of the prehistoric past. In order to protect the rare flora and fauna of the archipelago from complete extinction, the Government of Ecuador has reserved the islands for a projected national park. Additional conservation measures, approved by the International Zoological Congress in 1957, include the proposal to designate a dozen or more islands as inviolate wildlife sanctuaries and the establishment of a biological research institute to be known as the Darwin Memorial Station. Thus there is hope that Darwin's living laboratory of evolution will not be allowed to perish.

Various attempts at colonization of the islands have not proved very successful and fewer than a thousand persons inhabit them today. The pleasant climate, unusual marine and animal life, and excellent deep-sea fishing all promise to make the Galápagos an important attraction for visitors upon completion of plans for tourist accommodations.

History and Political Development

The history of Ecuador is a long and romantic one, interspersed with periods of peaceful progress and violent struggle. By 1526 the Inca Huayna Cápac had consolidated his conquests and after dividing the kingdom between his two sons, Huáscar and Atahualpa, he retired in ill health to his sumptuous palace at Tomebamba. It was here that he received word that strange white folk in a large craft had been seen off the coast. The white strangers were Spaniards who landed on the shores of Ecuador on the first trip of exploration along the West Coast. Francisco Pizarro led the next two expeditions from his base in Panama.

After exploring the coast and seizing the treasures at Atacames, Pizarro returned to Spain in 1528 convinced that he had discovered a rich kingdom. It was about this time that Huayna Cápac died, thus giving rise to the fratricidal wars between the half-brothers Huáscar and Atahualpa for control of the Inca Empire. Atahualpa defeated Huáscar and became master of Cuzco as well as Quito; but the struggle had weakened the Inca forces to such an extent that when Pizarro returned several years later and began the conquest of the Inca Empire, he encountered little resistance. The Indians, moreover, regarded the Spaniards as curiosities rather than conquerors, not only because of their white skins but also because of their horses—the first ever seen in South America. They believed that the invaders were powerless when dismounted and therefore offered little resistance to their attacks.

The Inca Atahualpa, taken by surprise at his mountain retreat in Cajamarca, some 500 miles south of Quito on the Camino Real, was captured in 1532 and held prisoner while his subjects filled a room full of gold and another of silver to fulfill the terms of his ransom. Not content with this vast treasure, Pizarro had Atahualpa put to death, thus inaugurating a long period of ruthless warfare against the native population.

The Colonial Period

Although the last of the Incas was dead, Quitu was not subdued until Pizarro dispatched Sebastián de Benalcázar to take possession of the northern kingdom before a rival Spanish *conquisador* could do so. Benalcázar carried out the mandate and founded San Francisco de Quito on December 6, 1534, on the site of the ancient Quitu capital. Gonzalo Pizarro, a brother of Francisco, was named governor of the colony in 1540. The colonial period of Ecuador's history covered almost three centuries, from the fall of the Inca Empire to the winning of independence from Spain in 1822.

The subjugation of the native population was followed by rivalries and civil strife of such intensity and violence among the conquerors that both Francisco Pizarro and his partner Diego de Almagro were murdered before the end of 1541 in Peru. The insatiable greed of their followers for gold and treasures was further whetted by tales told them by the Indians of the land of El Dorado (the Gilded Man) and of a region rich in cinnamon and spices.

In search of these, Gonzalo Pizarro organized an expedition in Quito in 1541, which resulted in the discovery of the Amazon River the following year. In a fantastic trek, the expedition crossed the Andes and built a brigantine on the Coca River to continue explorations. Orellana, who was sent ahead in the ship to find and bring back food, was swept into the mighty Napo River and continued into the Amazon, which he followed down its 3,900-mile course into the Atlantic, leaving Pizarro and his men to make their way back to Quito overland. Although Orellana found neither the land of cinnamon nor that of the "gilded man," his discovery of the great river brought him rich rewards at the court of Spain.

Exploration, colonization, and the implanting of Spanish civilization went forward. The first schools were established by the religious orders of the Catholic Church, whose selfless missionaries sought to bring peace to the strife-torn colony. Until 1830 the native population remained in a servile state under the *encomienda* system, which was instituted by the Crown in Spanish America. The term encomienda was applied to the land and the natives apportioned to each Spaniard, or *encomendero*. Quito, capital of the colony, grew and prospered. Its request to be made a royal *audiencia* was granted by

Spain in 1563. Although primarily a superior court of justice, the Royal Audiencia of Quito also exercised political and military functions. Its jurisdiction extended beyond the present limits of modern Ecuador; it was responsible to the Viceroyalty of Peru, of which it formed a part until 1718, and thereafter to the Viceroyalty of New Granada with its seat in Bogotá. Later the colony was elevated to the rank of a presidency.

The intellectual societies which flourished in Quito in the eighteenth century became centers of liberal political thought; their members were influenced by writings of the French Encyclopedists and by such eminent visitors from Europe as Charles Marie de la Condamine, the French geographer and mathematician, and the German geographer and scientist Baron Alexander von Humboldt. Even before Napoleon's invasion of Spain touched off the revolutionary movement in the American colonies, Eugenio Espejo was preaching independence.

This gifted and learned man, born in Quito in 1747 of part-Indian blood, was as revolutionary in his political doctrines as he was in reforming the practice of medicine, his professional field. The Patriotic Society of Friends of the Country, of which Espejo was secretary, included many wealthy merchants and nobles who resented Spain's oppression of the creoles of the colony (those of pure Spanish descent born in America), the burden of unjust taxation, and severe trade restrictions imposed by the mother country. Although the Spanish Crown suppressed the society and its journal, Espejo advanced the cause of freedom through his prolific and inspired writings until he was arrested by the Spanish authorities and put in prison, where he died in 1795. Affectionately called "El Indio Espejo" by his countrymen, he is Ecuador's national hero.

The War of Independence

The stage was set for revolt when Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Spain, deposed the king, and placed his brother Joseph on the throne in 1808. The Spanish people then proclaimed Ferdinand VII their lawful king and formed juntas to govern both Spain and its empire. One of the first self-governing juntas established in the colonies was that of Quito. Here on August 10, 1809, the leading citizens overthrew the president of the Royal Audiencia, imprisoned the other officials, and established a supreme governing body without bloodshed. However, the patriots of Quito lacked the necessary military strength to maintain their independence and within three months Spanish rule had been restored by royalist troops from neighboring colonies.

More than a decade later, the campaign in northern South America under Simón Bolívar had made sufficient headway to permit the general to send his able young compatriot, Antonio José de Sucre, into Ecuador to lead what proved to be a decisive campaign against the Spaniards. Sucre's army, reinforced with troops sent by General José de San Martín from Peru, met the Spanish forces in a fierce battle on the slopes of Mount Pichincha, just outside Quito, on May 24, 1822, and won the great victory that liberated Ecuador forever from Spanish rule.

After winning independence for Colombia and his native Venezuela, Bolívar arrived in Quito a few weeks after the battle of Pichincha. His dream of a federation of Greater Colombia was realized when Ecuador united with Colombia and Venezuela. Afterwards came the historic meeting in Guayaquil in July between the liberators Bolívar and San Martín, the latter having already won the freedom of Argentina and Chile. Soon after this meeting, San Martín left Bolívar in supreme command of the patriot forces. The Republic of Greater Colombia, headed by Simón Bolívar as president, was dissolved in 1830, when both Ecuador and Venezuela withdrew and became separate nations. The Liberator died the same year at the age of forty-seven.

The Republican Period

The Republic of Ecuador began its separate existence with the adoption of a constitution on September 23, 1830. General Juan José Flores was elected the first president. This constitution adopted the name Ecuador for the country and established a presidential system of government similar to that of the United States, with a division of powers among the executive, the legislative, and the judicial branches. Although the first constitution provided for a confederation, subsequent ones established a centralized, unitary system.

As was the case in other newly constituted republics of South America, the national government of Ecuador was beset from the beginning by personal and sectional rivalries. The struggle for power between the Coast and the Sierra, between Guayaquil and Quito, and between Liberals and Conservatives was personified in the two dominant figures of the first thirty years of the Republic: General Flores, of strong nationalist and dictatorial tendencies, and his liberal opponent Vicente Rocafuerte, a wealthy and cultured creole of Guayaquil.

By a compromise reached between the two, Rocafuerte succeeded Flores as president in 1835 and made important contributions to the peace and stability of the republic. He labored untiringly for public education, promoted the nation's first social welfare activities, and encouraged freedom of religion. General Flores succeeded him in 1839, dissolved the national congress and renewed the war with Colombia for possession of Pasto and Popayán. The growing opposition to his dictatorship resulted in the liberal revolution of 1845 in Guayaquil, which deposed him. During the next fifteen years of political unrest, characterized by a succession of presidents, the most important events for Ecuadoreans were the abolition of slavery in 1854, giving liberty to some sixty thousand Negroes, and the suppression of payments of tribute by the Indians.

A period of intense nationalism and of reaction against militarism (1845 to 1859) was followed by the authoritarian rule of President Gabriel García Moreno. A cultured man and a militant Catholic, García Moreno entrenched the political power of the Conservatives for 15 years, suppressing his opponents with strong measures. While he went far in attaining his aim of "a virtuous, orderly state," García Moreno provoked violent partisanship. The most vociferous spokesman of the liberal opposition was the journalist and essayist, Juan Montalvo. In August, 1875, García Moreno was assassinated while on his way from the Cathedral to the Presidential Palace.

The Radical-Liberal revolution of 1895, led by General Alfaro, ushered in a period of liberal constitutional development lasting several decades. The greatest figure

The Government Palace in Quito

of this era was the Liberal leader Eloy Alfaro, who served as president from 1895 to 1901 and from 1906 to 1911. The reaction against García Moreno's church-state policies was reflected in the constitutions of 1897 and 1906, which removed religious qualifications for citizenship and re-established freedom of worship.

General Alfaro was a native of Montecristi and had built up a fortune in private business before being exiled during the García Moreno era. Always active in politics, he was a close friend of Juan Montalvo. During his two administrations he pushed through to completion the Guayaquil-Quito Railway, despite tremendous obstacles; extended public works, improved educational facilities, created the Public Health Service, introduced reforms for the betterment of the Indian population, and did much to improve the status of women.

Following President Alfaro's resignation in 1911, the struggle for political power developed into a civil war and the liberal party was divided into two factions. During the violent conflict Alfaro was imprisoned in Guaya-

quil and was later taken to Quito with a group of his generals. All of them were brutally assassinated by the mob.

Under the orderly statesmanship of General Leonidas Plaza, the country enjoyed constitutional government and a minimum of political unrest from 1901 to 1905. During his second administration (1912-1916), the country was seriously weakened by the effects of the First World War and by three years of civil warfare in Esmeraldas Province. Internal peace was restored during the administration of President Alfredo Baquerizo Moreno, who succeeded Plaza.

The firmly-entrenched Liberal Radical Party remained in power from 1895 to 1944. During that period, political and social unrest, accompanied by revolts and the rise and fall of governments, resulted in large measure from the economic distress caused by the First World War, aggravated later by the decline of the disease-ridden cacao crops and the world-wide depression of the early 1930's. The last of the Liberal Radical presidents was Dr. Carlos Alberto Arroyo del Rio, who was deposed in the revolution of May 1944, in Guayaquil. Thereupon, the leftist Ecuadorean Democratic Alliance assumed the powers of government and two days later proclaimed Dr. José María Velasco Ibarra President of the Republic.

A distinguished lawyer and orator, Dr. Velasco Ibarra had served briefly as president in 1934-35 and had been a political exile from then until his return to power. He served as chief executive of the nation until 1947. Galo Plaza was elected president in 1948 and served until 1952, when Dr. Velasco Ibarra was re-elected. At the end of his term in 1956, he was succeeded by President Camilo Ponce Enríquez, whose administration was marked by steady economic and social progress. In the election of June 1960, Dr. Velasco Ibarra was again elected president.

In the process of arriving at a stable democratic form of government, Ecuador has adopted and discarded a number of different constitutions which have reflected the political philosophy of both Liberal and Conservative parties. The liberal constitution of 1906 was in effect until 1929, and again from 1935 to 1945. A new constitution, promulgated in March of 1945, was suspended a year later and was replaced by the present Constitution, adopted on December 31, 1946. This document defines the form of national government as unitary, democratic, and representative.

The Constitution guarantees the inviolability of human life and domicile, the right of habeas corpus, and freedom of religion, speech, assembly, and petition. All persons are equally entitled to the protection of the law. Property rights are guaranteed when in harmony with their social function. Every Ecuadorean over eighteen years of age who can read and write is declared to be a citizen and may elect or be elected, or appointed, to public office.

The president and the vice-president are elected by direct, secret ballot for a term of four years and may not be re-elected within four years after the expiration of their terms. The normal powers of the chief executive are set forth in 18 categories; extraordinary powers may be granted him in emergencies. The president is assisted by a Cabinet of nine ministers.

The National Congress consists of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. Thirty-five of the 47 Senators are elected by direct, secret, and popular vote to represent the provinces and national territory; the remaining twelve are designated as Functional Senators, there being one each to represent public education, private education, journalism and the scientific and literary academies; one each for agriculture, commerce, workers, and industries of the Litoral; one each for the corresponding categories in the Sierra; and one for the armed forces. One deputy for every 50,000 inhabitants is elected for a term of two years in each of the provinces; an additional deputy is elected by provinces having an excess of 25,000 or more inhabitants. Every province is entitled to a minimum of two deputies.

The judicial power is exercised by the Supreme Court, superior courts, criminal courts, regional, and lower courts. A Council of State consisting of ten members, headed by the chief justice of the Supreme Court, has

power to render opinions respecting questions of constitutionality, subject to final action by Congress. This Council represents Congress when the latter is in recess. An autonomous Supreme Court of Elections is composed of three members designated by Congress, two by the president, and two by the Supreme Court for a term of four years. It is the duty of this tribunal to see that the electoral laws are complied with. The economic stability of the country is the special concern of the National Economic Council. The Constitution provides that national defense and public education shall receive preferential attention in the national budget.

With respect to regional and local government, the Constitution subdivides the national territory into provinces and cantóns. There are 19 provinces and one national territory, the Galápagos Islands. Each province has a governor appointed by and removable by the president. Each cantón constitutes a municipality, with its corresponding mayor and council.

The 4-F clubs, like the 4-H clubs in the United States, are very active in Ecuador

Culture and Customs

Modern Ecuador has a rich and varied cultural heritage derived from prehistoric Indian civilizations, the art and architecture of Spain's Golden Age transplanted to the colony in the seventeenth century, and the literary and artistic achievements of the colonial and republican periods. Today, the nation's cultural tradition is carried on by a new generation of creative artists and writers, educators and scientists.

Pre-Columbian Culture

From Indian burial mounds and ruins in the Andean highlands and along the coast, archaeologists have uncovered pottery, jewelry, and stone objects which resemble the culture of pre-Incaic civilizations. The Spanish conquest destroyed all but a few of the Inca fortresses and temples. The most impressive Ecuadoreon example of stone masonry, for which the Incas were famous, is the ruin of the citadel of Ingapirca on the cold Andean plateau of Cañar Province. In the villages of Chordeleg and Sigsig, not far from Cuenca, archaeologists have uncovered golden crowns and breastplates, and gold-banded weapons. Near La Tola in the north, golden artifacts, molded figurines, bowls, stone axes, and other relics have been uncovered in burial mounds, or *tolas*, left by a prehistoric Indian civilization which attained a high degree of culture.

The Ecuadorean People

Ecuador's present-day population of more than 4,000,000 inhabitants represents a rich mosaic of different racial and cultural elements, composed principally of descendents of the once mighty Incas and their Spanish conquerors. In addition to the white population and a substantial mestizo class, Ecuador has some of the most interesting Indian tribes and communities of South America: the resourceful Otavalos of the Andean highlands who excel in arts and crafts; the docile Colorados of the western jungle who are diminishing in number; the primitive Jívaros of the isolated Oriente; and the Aucas, who are as much a mystery to other Ecuadoreans as to the outside world.

30 University City, Quito

The large Negro population of the city of Esmeraldas is descended from Negro slaves who, in the sixteenth century, successfully fought for their freedom against both Indians and whites and created a small independent Negro empire under the leadership of two men who escaped from a slave ship in 1533.

Geography and climate have been as influential as race in molding the temperament and personality of the people and there is no such thing as a typical Ecuadorean. The *costeños* (people of the coast) are quite different in make-up from the *serranos* of the highlands. The country's Andean capital Quito and its citizens, the Quiteños, seem to belong to a different world from tropical Guayaquil and the gay and bustling Guayaquileños. Friendliness and hospitality are typical of Ecuadoreans of all sections of the country. Ecuador's modern progress has not eliminated the traditional mode of gracious, leisurely living nor the religious and regional fiestas which appeal so much to visitors.

Education

Following independence, the church continued to exert a strong influence over the educational system and, as a rule, only the children of the upper class received a good education. Although Simón Bolívar actively promoted the idea of public education, it was not until 1836 that the national government passed an organic education law, mainly as a result of the efforts of President Vicente Rocafuerte, who believed that public education was one of the primary duties of the state and a cornerstone of enlightened government. During the presidency of García Moreno, beginning in 1861, the number of children in school increased threefold.

In the reaction against the strict control of the educational system by the church, lay schools were established as official institutions by President Eloy Alfaro, who also founded normal schools for men and women in Quito. Further advances were made under the guidance of educational missions brought from France, Germany, and the United States. Today, the Constitution provides for "lay education, free of charge, and obligatory." Educational institutions, both public and private, are under the control of the national government.

The Ministry of Public Education exercises administrative and supervisory control over all types of national, municipal, and private schools, and related educational activities. The nation's five state universities are located in Quito, Guayaquil, Cuenca, Loja, and Manabí. The Central University in Quito, one of the oldest institutions of higher learning in America, has under its direction the Astronomical Observatory, the Conservatory of Music, and the School of Fine Arts. The new National Polytechnic School offers a five-year course.

Ecuador's school system comprises nursery schools, kindergartens, rural and urban elementary schools, secondary and vocational; continuation and night schools for adults; special schools (art, music, commercial and physical education), rural and urban normal schools, and universities. Agricultural experimental schools have been established in the highlands and coastal region; some are joint projects of the Ministry of Education and the Inter-American Cooperative Education Service, which

A pre-Columbian chicha bowl

since 1943 has also given special attention to the extension of rural education. A national campaign in adult education, launched in 1944 by the National Union of Journalists of Quito and the LAE group in Guayaquil, led to the establishment of 400 literacy centers in which more than 200,000 persons have been taught to read and write.

Aside from formal educational institutions, the Casa de la Cultura is the most vital factor in the diffusion of general culture throughout the republic. Founded by decree in 1944 to "direct and guide national culture," this official center is financed with funds obtained from a tax on exports. From its headquarters in Quito and through its branches in other cities, the Casa de la Cultura stimulates activity in all scientific and artistic fields by granting scholarships and prizes, and by organizing lectures, courses, recitals, concerts, and exhibits. It also publishes outstanding books and magazines.

Art and Architecture

All forms of culture in colonial Ecuador were dominated by a strong religious influence, for the various orders of the Catholic Church were pioneers in education and in church construction and religious art. In Quito's first convent, founded by the Franciscans, a school of arts and crafts was established for Indian children. In this school, the first of its kind in South America, Franciscan priests taught painting, music, carpentry, sculpture, and weaving. With their extraordinary talent for fine craftsmanship, the Indians soon became an important factor in church construction and ornamentation.

Under the direction of Flemish and Spanish artists and sculptors, the Quito school developed and won a lasting place in the history of New World art. The fame of Quito's craftsmen spread and a lucrative trade developed in objects of religious art. Words cannot do justice to Quito's churches and monasteries, world-famous

Interior of the
Church of
La Merced,
Quito

A painting by Manuel Rendón

for their architecture and priceless works of art. In general, church architecture was based on the Spanish baroque, Italian Renaissance, Byzantine, and *mudéjar* (Moorish-Spanish) styles. Building stone from local Andean quarries was cut and sculptured by master craftsmen.

Among native sculptors of the colonial period, the best known are Caspicara, Diego de Robles, and José Olmos ("Pampite"). The great Spanish tradition of wood sculpture was carried on by Gaspar Zangurima, a sculptor pensioned by Simón Bolívar, who trained a new generation of craftsmen in his school at Cuenca. The art of wood-carving is kept alive today by the skilled artisans of Quito, Cuenca, and San Antonio de Ibarra. The exquisitely hand-carved pulpit in the Guápulo church (near Quito) is one of the finest examples of this art.

In addition to Miguel de Santiago, the foremost figures of the Quito School were his nephew and pupil, Nicolás Javier de Gorívar; Manuel Samaniego, Bernardo Rodríguez, and Bernardo Legarda. San Agustín Church contains a fine collection of the paintings of the great teacher, Miguel de Santiago. The war of independence relegated painting to a lesser position temporarily, and shifted the emphasis from religious subjects to the heroic. The Liberator Simón Bolívar was painted by Gaspar Zangurima, the modest Indian who was also a sculptor and silversmith. From the middle of the nineteenth century on, a new generation of painters, several of whom studied in Europe, followed continental trends, painting landscapes, portraits and genre scenes. Outstanding among them were Antonio Salas and Joaquín Pinto.

The liberalism and social idealism of the early twentieth century were reflected in a new school of painters influenced by the Frenchman Paul Alfred Bar, who came to teach impressionism and decorative painting at a new School of Fine Arts founded in Quito in 1904. Creative painting was further stimulated by the establishment of a national salon, endowed with cash prizes by Mariano Aguilera, a patron of the arts and philanthropist. In the new trend toward realism, the country and its people became leading subjects, particularly in the paintings of Camilo Egas, Oswaldo Guayasamín, Eduardo Kingman, and Manuel Rendón—all outstanding painters.

The Museum of Colonial Art—housed in a spacious seventeenth-century Quito mansion—contains an outstanding collection of paintings, sculpture, and decorative and folk arts. In addition to the permanent collections the museum also holds exhibitions of contemporary and modern art.

Literature

The literature of the early colonial period dealt chiefly with religious subjects. Among the first and most outstanding native writers were the priests Gaspar de Villarroel, born in Quito, and his contemporary Jacinto de Evia. The arrival of the first printing press in Ecuador in 1755 paved the way for journalism in the colony and for the output of revolutionary literature, stimulated by the cultural awakening which culminated in the revolt against Spanish rule. The precursor of independence in Ecuador, Eugenio Espejo, denounced the colonial system of Spain in his *El Retrato de Golilla* and founded the country's first newspaper, *Primicias de la Cultura de Quito*. He wrote on such varied subjects as tropical diseases and their cure; and theology, education, law and art. The foremost historian of this period was the Jesuit Juan de Velasco, who wrote the first history of the Kingdom of Quito, as Ecuador was once called.

National politics in the young republic became the major theme of journalists and writers. Influential during this period was the newspaper *Quiteño Libre* in which the political views of many leaders were expressed. Ecuador's foremost literary figure, Juan Montalvo, is universally recognized as one of the great masters of Spanish prose. Symbol of liberalism, Montalvo penned fiery polemics against the tyranny and religious fanaticism of President Gabriel García Moreno, who exiled him repeatedly. Aside from his political writings, he is best known for his *Siete Tratados* and *Capitulos que se le Olvidaron a Cervantes;* the latter, a continuation of Cervantes' *Don Quijote,* displays Montalvo's brilliant mastery of the Spanish language. He died in exile.

The liberal revolution led by Eloy Alfaro produced a strong social trend in twentieth-century Ecuadorean literature, reflected chiefly in *A la Costa,* a novel by Luis Martínez. This trend was further developed by the so-called "Guayaquil Group" of writers. Among other contemporary literary figures, Jorge Carrera Andrade is regarded as Ecuador's most representative poet and Benjamín Carrión as an outstanding essayist.

Music and Folklore

The national music of Ecuador originated in the native ritual music of the Indians before the Spanish conquest and still bears the plaintive, melancholy stamp of peoples long subjected to conquest and oppression. Although much of the primitive music was lost in the course of the Spanish conquest, the native music of the Andean highlands is still pure. The aboriginal five-note scale is still preserved and played today, as are the earliest native instruments such as the *rondador,* a flute made of bamboo. The *yaraví,* an Indian ballad and dance form common to all Andean peoples conquered by the Incas, survives in the five-note scale and its variation, *la tonada,* shows the Spanish influence of the seven-note scale in its faster tempo and climax. Popular creole music, or the fusion of the indigenous with the Spanish, includes the *aire típico,* the *alza* and the *albazo,* which are syncopated as a result of the combined scales. The *sanjuanito,* typical Indian dance of the highlands, varies in form in different regions. Other interesting variations are found in the *chilena,* a dance adapted from the Chilean *cueca;* the *pasacalle,* which evolved from the Spanish *pasodoble;* and the *pasillo* adopted from Colombia.

Among the European instruments that were adopted in Ecuador are several members of the guitar family, the violin, and the harp (*arpa criolla*) in varying sizes. In the resurgence of popular music in recent years, native themes have been incorporated in symphonies, ballets, and suites. The first national conservatory of music, now headed by the violinist Gerardo Alzamora, was founded in Quito in 1870 and maintains the National Symphony Orchestra.

An Otavalo dancer celebrates Carnival

Social Progress

The Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor directs a comprehensive program of vital importance to the masses of Ecuadoreans. Its functions and responsibilities include the fields of labor and social security, sanitation and public health, nutrition and housing, and social service. The enthusiasm with which the Government of Ecuador has welcomed the cooperation of foreign and international agencies in these fields has been an important factor in progress toward public health and welfare goals during the last quarter-century.

Public Health

The greatest achievement in this field was the stamping out of yellow fever, bubonic plague, and epidemics of malaria and typhoid fever in Guayaquil in the 1920's. For centuries a disease-ridden port, Guayaquil has been rated as Class A-1 since 1930, as a result of the health and sanitation program entered into in the early 1920's by the governments of Ecuador and the United States, with invaluable aid from the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Sanitary Law of 1926 laid the framework of the National Health Service, which functions through provincial and local sanitary offices and health centers; maternity and infant centers, school health services, and vaccination brigades. Ecuador was the first American republic to enter into an agreement with the United States Government, through the Institute of Inter-American Affairs, for creating a Cooperative Health Service. Since its inauguration in 1942, this agency has carried on the following active projects: construction, expansion and/or repair of some 30 hospitals; also health centers, dispensaries and a nurses training school; construction of the Institute of Hygiene, a medical school, and a laboratory; construction of sewerage and water supply systems; hospital operation; campaigns against malaria and yaws; and public health education.

A typical example of what can be done to improve sanitation through cooperative effort is the new drainage system developed in the town of San Antonio, Manabí Province. Because of the persistent demands of the townspeople, backed by the Pilot Project in Fundamental Edu-

cation, the Inter-American Cooperative Public Health Service incorporated in its 1956 program a drainage project for the town which is now nearing completion. The people themselves contributed to this enterprise with both money and manual labor, thus providing a fine example for other Ecuadorean towns to follow.

Outstanding public health institutions are the Central University School for Nurses in Quito, the Institute of Hygiene in Guayaquil, the National Institute of Nutrition in Quito, and the Maternity Hospital and the Medical School of the University of Guayaquil. Aside from the public institutions directly under the Ministry of Social Welfare, there are the hospitals, clinics, and medical services maintained by the Central Boards of Public Assistance in the major cities. The Central Public Assistance Boards of Quito and Cuenca, which are autonomous agencies under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Welfare, finance the operation of hospitals and similar institutions by income derived from large farms and properties, some of them formerly owned by the religious orders and nationalized early in the twentieth century. A significant index of public health progress is the steadily declining infant mortality rate, which now stands at 112.8 (deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births) as compared to the rate of 170 in 1929. Malaria and yaws have declined steadily.

Social Security

The first social security institution in Ecuador was the Pension Fund, established in 1928. The present compulsory social insurance system, created by law in 1935 and subsequently expanded by additional legislation, is administered by the National Social Security Institute through the Pension Fund and the Social Security Fund.

Social security benefits include sickness and maternity insurance, disability and old age insurance; widowhood and orphan's insurance, and insurance against occupational accidents and disease. The income of the Social Insurance Fund is derived from three main sources: individual contributions of five per cent of the wages and salaries of insured workers; seven per cent of the same wages and salaries, to be contributed by the employer; and contributions by the government, derived from estate and other taxes, and revenues specifically earmarked for the Fund. The social security system embraces all private employees and workers in general, with the power to broaden its scope to farm workers, independent workers and artisans, homeworkers, domestic servants, and others. The National Institute is extending social security benefits to these workers as rapidly as possible.

The Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor has a social service section which directs its activities toward improving home life, protecting infants and minors, and assisting maternity cases. The National School of Social Service and the Mariana de Jesús Social Service School, both in Quito, train social workers who are assigned to a variety of public institutions including infant and maternity centers, juvenile courts, orphanages and re-education centers, and dispensaries and hospitals. The Central Public Assistance Boards, in addition to running hospitals and welfare institutions, are actively engaged in social service work.

Labor

With the exception of compulsory social security, all matters relating to labor are regulated by the Labor Code enacted in 1938. The Code regulates hours, wages, and conditions of labor; individual and collective contracts; trade unions, strikes, lockouts and settlement of labor disputes. Minimum wages are revised every two years by the Minimum Wage Commission of each province. The maximum working day is eight hours, and for underground work, six hours. Working periods may not exceed 44 hours a week, except for overtime work as provided by the Code. In addition to compulsory days of rest and civic holidays, all workers and employees are entitled to a vacation of fifteen days with pay per year.

The right of workers to organize trade unions and federations is guaranteed by the Constitution and by the Labor Code, as is the right to strike, subject to certain regulations. The Labor Administration and the Labor Bureaus are responsible for enforcement of the Labor Code, together with the Superior and Supreme Courts and the Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration. There are labor inspectors for each province.

Maternity Hospital in Quito

There are three trade union federations: the Confederation of Ecuadorean Workers, the Ecuadorean Confederation of Catholic Workers, and the Labor Confederation of Guayas.

Housing

Action toward solving the urban housing problem in Ecuador has been taken chiefly by the National Institute for Social Security through its pension and social security funds. A number of community housing developments, including individual units and apartments, have been constructed in Quito and Guayaquil for families of low and medium incomes.

The severe earthquake of 1949 gave impetus to rural housing development—especially in the provinces of Cotopaxi, Tungurahua, and Chimborazo—because of the large scale reconstruction necessitated in some 42 affected cities, towns, and villages. Reconstruction of the town of Pelileo on a new site a few miles from the former one was carried out according to a master plan prepared by local engineers. Dwellings, schools, churches and other community buildings in this and other shattered towns were constructed on the basis of simplified earthquake-resistant architecture, basic housing types, and mass production methods.

Cooperatives

The cooperative movement in Ecuador received impetus from the adoption in 1937 of the first national legislation governing the organization and conduct of cooperatives. The law provided for a Department of Cooperatives under the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor. Latest information from the Department indicates a total of more than 300 cooperative societies with a membership in excess of 12,000 persons, and total capital of roughly ten million sucres. Of the total number, 153 cooperatives are engaged in the production and sale of agricultural products. The rest are consumer, credit, housing, manufacturing, industrial, fishing, transportation, and colonization cooperatives.

Bananas
the doc
at Guayaq

Economic Growth

The sound economy and prosperity which Ecuador enjoys today are the result of successful economic planning and development, made possible by more than a decade of political stability, a minimum of inflation, and a stable currency. The tremendous barrier of the Andes, which divides this predominantly agricultural country into three distinct and isolated regions, has from the earliest days constituted a serious obstacle to the economic integration of the country, as well as to its political unity. Ecuador's diversity of climate, however, makes possible the cultivation of a wide variety of both Temperate-Zone and tropical crops. The subsistence crops of the Andean highlands, chiefly grains and vegetables, are grown mainly for domestic consumption; whereas the chief commercial crops of the coastal region (bananas, coffee, and cacao) are grown principally for export and provide the country with the bulk of its national income. Ecuador is today the world's largest exporter of bananas.

Petroleum is the most important of the country's mineral resources, which together represent a small sector of the total national economy. Forest resources are rich and varied. Ecuador's ocean fishing grounds, considered to be among the best in the world, represent an important economic resource which has only recently begun to be exploited commercially.

It is significant that Ecuador's postwar economic expansion has been accomplished by means of wise governmental policies and internal activities, rather than with the aid of large amounts of foreign investment capital. The government's initiative in promoting the development of natural resources, agriculture, industry, mining, public works, and transport dates from 1942, when the Ecuadorean Development Corporation was established. Credit facilities were provided by a National Development Bank and its provincial branches, created two years later. In 1948 the Central Bank of Ecuador became a state institution with responsibility for contributing to the country's economic development. A reappraisal of these and other private entities and technical missions indicated the need for integrating their efforts and led in 1954 to the establishment of the National Board of Economic Planning and Coordination. This Board is engaged in coordinating national, regional, and local activities into an overall national program of economic development.

To encourage the investment of foreign capital the goverment abolished all restrictions on alien ownership of business, except for subsoil wealth and water power projects. The Central Bank of Ecuador is required to provide, without limitations and at the offical rate of exchange, the funds necessary to meet interest and amortization on all loans registered with the bank, as well as up to 15 per cent annually of registered capital for the transfer of profits, dividends, and amortization of investments.

Agriculture and Livestock

Before bananas became Ecuador's leading export crop, coffee and cacao were the principal export products. Cacao, called *pepa de oro* (seed of gold) by the Ecuadoreans, brought great wealth to the country until the early years of the twentieth century, when destructive fungus diseases and competition from other areas produced a steady decline in production and exports. Most of the cacao is grown on large plantations in the valley of the Guayas River, the bulk of the total production coming from Los Ríos Province and smaller quantities from the provinces of El Oro, Manabí, and Esmeraldas. During the past decade there has been a marked improvement in the cacao industry, largely as a result of the program launched by the Ecuadorean Development Corporation for the eradication of plant diseases and the extension of technical and financial assistance to growers. Until 1942 coffee ranked second only to cacao as a cultivated commercial crop. Low coffee prices during the 1930's caused a decline in production. However, in recent years the favorable world market has stimulated coffee production to the point where the annual output averages between 25,000 and 29,000 tons per year. The principal producing areas are the coastal provinces of Manabí, Guayas, and El Oro, and Loja Province in the highlands. The bulk of the crop is grown by individual producers on small farms.

The rapid development of Ecuador's banana industry during the postwar years is a factor of major importance in the national economy. As the world's largest exporter

of bananas, Ecuador established a new record in 1959 with total exports of about 35 million stems. The coastal provinces supply about four-fifths of the total output, with Guayas Province the principal producer. The bulk of the crops is produced by independent growers on numerous small farms. Since 1955 the National Association of Banana Growers, organized by the government, has actively promoted the development of the banana industry through technical assistance to growers, credit facilities, and improved transportation from farms to shipping points.

The principal domestic crops are wheat, corn, barley, rye, oats, rice, potatoes and other vegetables, numerous fruits, sugar cane, cotton, and tobacco. Rice is exported when the world market is favorable.

Ecuador produces many plants which yield vegetable oils and oilseeds, including the castor oil plant, coconuts, peanuts, sunflowers, soybeans, sesame, and the royal palm. In most cases the entire yield is consumed domestically, the principal exceptions being palm kernels and castor beans which are exported in increasing quantities. Palm kernels are used in the manufacture of edible oils and castor beans for paints.

Ecuador's livestock industry, as yet not highly developed, is concentrated in the Andean highlands where about 60 per cent of the country's cattle are raised, as well as most of the sheep. Roughly 40 per cent of the cattle graze on the coastal savannas. The quality of poultry and milk has improved appreciably in recent years.

The government promotes agricultural development through (1) an extension system providing agents in each of the agricultural provinces; (2) agricultural schools, experiment stations, and demonstration farms; and (3) the extension of agricultural credit. Semi-autonomous organizations which have been established by the government to foster the development of various crops include the National Association of Banana Growers, the Institute for Renovation of Cacao, the Ecuadorean Coffee Institute, the National Wheat Commission, and the National Cotton Commission. Agricultural research and technical assistance are also provided by the Inter-American Agricultural Cooperative Service (sponsored by the

governments of Ecuador and the United States) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Forest Products

Ecuador's tropical forest resources are immense and as yet only partiallly exploited. They include balsa, the lightest known wood, of which Ecuador produces about 95 per cent of the total world supply; vegetable ivory from the tagua palm; mangrove bark, source of tannic acid and powder used in the processing of leather; kapok fiber used for pillows, life jackets, and filling upholstery; and toquilla straw from the trunkless, palmlike plant *carludovica palmata*. Annatto seeds are exported and used abroad for coloring cheese and margarine.

Mineral Resources

Ecuador's principal mineral resources are petroleum, gold, silver, copper, lead, sulphur, and salt. The mining of gold has declined in recent years and petroleum has risen steadily in importance since the discovery of the Ancón field on the Santa Elena Peninsula in 1923. The inauguration of the new petroleum refinery plant of Anglo-Ecuadorean Oil Fields, Ltd., at the close of 1959 was a major step in the expansion of the industry; the capacity of the new plant is expected to meet the country's present requirements for refined products, thus eliminating the need for importing more than a million dollars worth of such products each year. The largest of the five operating companies is Anglo-Ecuadorean Oil Fields, Ltd., controlled by British and United States interests. Large-scale explorations for petroleum are underway in several provinces and the first off-shore drilling was undertaken in the Gulf of Guayaquil in 1959.

Industry

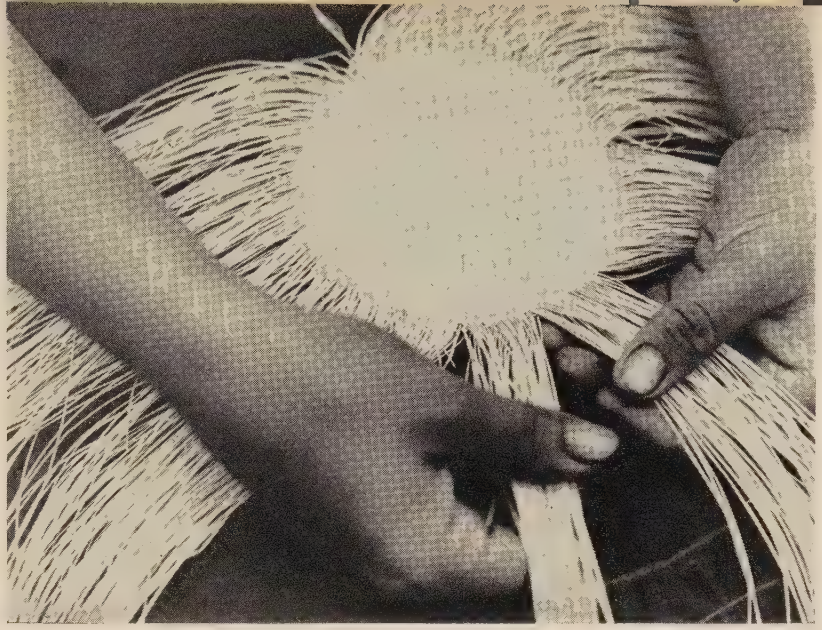
Ecuador is not a highly industrialized country and manufacturing is not a major factor in the national economy. However, during the last few decades, many new enterprises have been added to the long-established textile industry and the numerous home and craft industries that date from colonial days. The Industrial Encouragement Law of 1957 further stimulated industrial expansion.

Textiles and food processing continue to be the major industries, followed by petroleum refining, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, beverages, shoes and clothing, paper and printing, cement, tobacco products, leather and rubber goods, lumber and wooden furniture, and metal products and machinery. Industries operating on a smaller scale include the manufacture of hosiery, jute sacks, soap, candles, vegetable oils, matches, carpets, buttons, chocolate, alcohol, caustic soda, fertilizers, insecticides, paints, and plastics.

Cotton manufacturing in Ecuador dates from 1840, when an enterprising Ecuadorean named Pedro Pérez Pareja built the country's first cotton mill in Otavalo, after learning the textile business in Paterson, New Jersey. Machinery for his original factory was hauled by mule up the Andes. Cotton fabrics, thread, and finished products account for the bulk of the textile output. In addition to the hand-loomed woolens and tweeds for which the weavers of Otavalo are famous, there are several factories producing woolen fabrics. The production of rayon textiles from imported yarn is expanding at a rate sufficient to supply more than one-half of national consumption. Nylon hosiery is also manufactured from imported thread.

The manufacture of drugs and pharmaceuticals has become one of Ecuador's principal industries since World War II; up to that time the country imported practically all its drugs from Germany. Domestic manufacturers now produce a full line of drugs, vitamins, vaccines, and some sulfa drugs; and pharmaceutical products represent one of the country's principal exports. A new extraction plant, completed in Quito in 1959, is engaged in converting native pyrethrum flowers into potent insecticides. Native medicinal plants utilized by domestic laboratories include cinchona, ipecac, eucalyptus, and digitalis. Among other industries that are expanding rapidly are fish products, edible fats and oils, building construction and construction materials, flour milling, ceramics and chinaware, and the canning of fruits and fish.

A handicraft that long ago became one of Ecuador's leading industries is the production of the misnamed "Panama" hats, woven by hand from native toquilla straw. This home industry employs thousands of persons



These hands skillfully weave a "Panama" hat

in the highlands and provided a major export product until recent years. Hats produced in Montecristi and Jipijapa are world-famous for their exquisite quality and superior craftsmanship.

The increased rate of electric power production in recent years still falls far short of the country's total requirements. About 40 per cent of the power supply comes from hydroelectric plants and the balance from thermal installations. The plants in Quito and Guayaquil generate about 75 per cent of the country's electric power. Under the government's comprehensive plan for power development, several major projects have recently been undertaken; these will greatly increase the supply of electric power to Quito, Guayaquil, Ambato, and adjacent areas.

Foreign Trade

Ecuador's export trade is vital to the national economy, since it constitutes the largest single source of national income. The country's total foreign trade has grown rapidly in volume and value since the 1930's and shows considerable diversification. Agricultural products generally account for approximately 95 per cent of the value of all exports, with bananas, coffee, and cacao constituting the bulk of the total. Manufactured goods, consisting chiefly of toquilla hats and pharmaceuticals, represent roughly three per cent of the export trade, with the balance made up by minerals such as petroleum, gold, and concentrates of copper and lead. Fish and shellfish, particularly tuna and shrimp, are becoming increasingly important items in the export trade.

Ecuador's foreign trade for the year 1959 was significant in that it produced a healthy trade surplus of $47,300,000; exports totaled $143,400,000 and imports $96,100,000. Banana exports set a new record in 1959 in both volume and value of sales by earning more than $88,900,000, representing about 62 per cent of the value of all exports. Cacao exports were valued at close to $22,000,000 and coffee sales at more than $17,000,000. The export of fish products exceeded in value that of rice, which has been declining in recent years. Castor seed exports also registered an increase in 1959. Among minor export commodities are balsa wood, tagua nuts, kapok, sugar, rice, pyrethrum, toquilla hats, pharmaceuticals, and minerals.

Capital goods generally represent more than one third of all Ecuador's imports in terms of value and consist chiefly of industrial machinery, transport and communications equipment and materials, construction materials, and agricultural machinery. Other main categories of

imports are food products, beverages, and tobacco; nonmetallic minerals, glass, ceramics, and their manufactures; metals and metal products; heating fuels and lubricants; wood, paper, and their manufactures; and textiles and chemicals.

After the outbreak of World War II, the bulk of Ecuador's export-import trade shifted from Europe to the Western Hemisphere. The United States became Ecuador's principal market and presently purchases about 60 per cent of the country's banana exports, 50 per cent of cacao exports, and 70 per cent of the coffee. Although more than one-half of Ecuador's total imports still come from the United States, there is growing competition from European countries. The principal European traders are the West German Republic, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, and the United Kingdom. Ecuador's trade with Canada and various Latin American countries has increased substantially during the past decade.

Banking and Public Finance

The banking system of the republic consists of the Central Bank of Ecuador, the National Development Bank and 15 provincial development banks, and a dozen or more private banks. All are subject to the control of the Superintendency of Banks which supervises the operations of all national and private banks. Another important financial institution is the National Securities Commission (CNV), originally established in 1955 to facilitate the financing of public works; government bonds and loans comprise most of the CNV's investments. Foreign banking institutions established in Ecuador include the First National City Bank of New York, the Bank of London and Montreal, and the Hollandsche Bank Unie of Amsterdam. Ecuador is a member of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) and of the Inter-American Development Bank.

The Monetary Board, founded in 1948, directs the financial policy and operations of the country. During recent years it has strengthened the country's international economic position in several important respects. At the beginning of 1960, for example, Ecuador's international monetary reserves stood at the highest level since 1954; the excess of purchases over sales of foreign exchange for the year 1959 showed an impressive surplus; and the sucre had strengthened in relation to the United States dollar, showing very slight depreciation.

The national budget for 1960 amounted to $1,037,000,000 and included a substantial increase in capital expenditures, particularly for highway and school construction. In contrast to the high level of the internal public debt, Ecuador's external public debt is very low. A new high level of means of payment and money in circulation in the country was reached at the beginning of 1960.

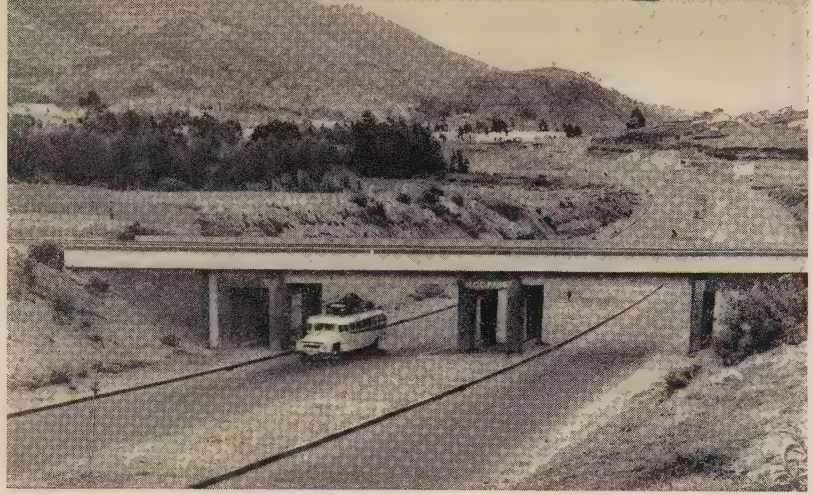
The monetary unit of Ecuador is the *sucre* (named for General Sucre) and is divided into 100 *centavos*. The currency comprises coins and banknotes issued by the Central Bank, which is the sole bank of issue. Banknotes are issued in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500, and 1,000 sucres; and coins of nickel are in values of 5, 10, and 20 centavos and one sucre.

Communications

Transportation facilities in Ecuador have improved greatly during the last decade due mainly to the extensive, though costly, program of public works undertaken by the government for highway construction, the building of new port works, and other projects of strategic importance to the country's economic development.

Ecuador's present highway system consists of more than 7,000 miles of highways and secondary roads, more than half of the total being of all-weather construction such as macadam, cobblestone, or gravel. The Pan American Highway, backbone of the country's highway system, enters the country from Colombia at the Rumichaca Natural Bridge and runs south to the Peruvian border, a distance of 714 miles. South of Loja the highway divides into two branches which unite at Macará on the border; both have short sectors under construction.

Important branches of the Pan American Highway which connect the coast with the highlands are the Quito-Santo Domingo-Quinindé-Esmeraldas road; the road from Latacunga to Manta and Guayaquil via Quevedo; and three shorter links: Riobamba to Babahoyo, Cuenca to Machala, and Tambo to Durán. Another important connecting road is being constructed from Santo Domingo to



The Pan American Highway south of Quito

the coast via Chone. The many new access roads that are penetrating hitherto isolated areas are contributing greatly to the economic development of those regions.

Ecuador's railway system consists of five government-owned lines, chief of which is the Guayaquil-Quito-San Lorenzo Railway. The extension of this line to the Pacific Coast port of San Lorenzo has provided access for the first time to remote and largely unexplored regions in the provinces of Carchi and Esmeraldas. Four short lines connect the following points: Sibambe and Azogues, Puerto Bolívar and Pasaje, Puerto Bolívar and Piedras, and Bahía de Caráquez and Chone. Operating losses on the existing lines and the high cost of railway construction are obstacles to the further extension of the country's rail system.

Shipping plays an important part in Ecuador's transportation system. In addition to the various foreign steamship lines which call at Ecuadorean ports, the Flota Mercante Grancolombiana carries a large volume of the country's exports and imports; this merchant fleet is a joint enterprise with the Republic of Colombia, which owns 80 per cent of the capital stock, the balance being held by Ecuador. Ecuador's merchant fleet includes six freighters and a tanker with a combined gross of 19,000 tons. The larger fruit-exporting companies maintain company-owned or chartered vessels, principally for the banana trade. In addition, many privately-owned small craft are engaged in coastal trade and river shipping.

The Guayas and Esmeraldas Rivers are important transportation routes for shipping bananas and other export products from the coastal provinces to Pacific Coast ports. The Daule and Babahoyo Rivers, which converge with the Guayas at Durán (across the river from Guayaquil), are navigable for about 120 miles by river boats. An important part of the government's public works program consists of construction of a new port for Guayaquil on the Estero Salado, an inlet navigable from the Pacific Ocean; and modernization of port works at Manta, Puerto Bolívar, Esmeraldas, San Lorenzo, and Bahía de Caráquez.

Because of the age-old geographical obstacles to overland transportation, Ecuador began early to develop commercial aviation. Of the three national airlines, AREA (Aerovías Ecuatorianas, C.A.) is the oldest and the largest. The principal cities and ports of the country are linked by scheduled air services, which carry an increasing volume of passengers and cargo.

Ecuador's telecommunications facilities consist of a national telephone and telegraph system, radiotelegraph, domestic and international radiotelephone service, and cable communications with all parts of the world. Quito, Guayaquil, and Cuenca have dial telephone systems which are being expanded and improved. There are 90 or more radio broadcasting stations distributed in some 20 cities and towns, the majority being concentrated in Quito and Guayaquil. Ecuador's first commercial television station was licensed in Guayaquil in 1960.

TRAVEL INFORMATION
Entry Requirements
International Communications
Transportation Within Ecuador

Travel Information

Entry requirements, customs regulations, and transportation routes and schedules are subject to change. Therefore, when planning your trip, you should obtain the latest information from the nearest Ecuadorean Consulate, a local travel agency, steamship or airline companies, or from the office of Inter-American Tourist Service* of the Pan American Union.

Entry Requirements

Citizens of the American republics and Canada may obtain a Tourist Card costing $1.00, valid for 90 days and renewable for an additional 90 days, from an Ecuadorean Consulate or a transportation company upon presentation of the following: a birth certificate or similar documentary proof of citizenship, health certificate, a smallpox vaccination certificate, and two photographs; also a roundtrip ticket, transportation to another country, or a letter of recommendation.

In the case of collective tourist groups organized by a reputable company to attend sports events or a pilgrimage, it is sufficient to present a group passport together with a detailed list of the persons comprising the group—including the name, nationality, civil status, and occupation of each individual—and a guarantee by the company that the entire group will enter and leave Ecuador in its charge.

A business visa good for 90 days will be issued upon presentation of the following: (1) a passport valid for more than six months (otherwise the visa can be granted only for the period that the passport is valid); (2) a certificate of good conduct, issued by competent authorities of the place of residence of the applicant; (3) a medical certificate showing that the applicant is not afflicted with a contagious or incurable disease; and (4) an anti-smallpox vaccination certificate not more than a year old. Before granting a business visa, the Ecuadorean official concerned must verify the financial standing and solvency of the applicant.

* As part of its informational services, the office of Inter-American Tourist Service of the Pan American Union publishes the following: The Pan American Highway System, 50 cents; Requirements for Entry of United States Tourists into the Latin American Republics, 10 cents; Directory of Hotels—Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru, 10 cents; and other current material. Orders should be addressed to the Sales and Promotion Division, Pan American Union, Washington 6, D.C.

International Communications

A number of international airlines and steamship companies provide scheduled passenger and cargo services to Ecuador from the United States and other countries. In addition to the foreign airlines, the Ecuadorean airline CEA (Cia. Ecuatoriana de Aviación) flies an international route from Quito and Guayaquil to Miami, via Panama. By sea, passenger accommodations are available on cruise ships sailing from New York and down the West Coast of South America; and also on cargo ships sailing from Pacific Coast and Gulf ports. One may travel overland into Ecuador from Colombia and Peru on roads that traverse the country from border to border.

Transportation Within Ecuador

In Ecuador, as in other Andean countries, the quickest and easiest way to travel is by plane. Ecuador's principal coastal city and port, Guayaquil, is linked with the capital by air, highway, and railway. In addition to the foreign airlines serving Quito and Guayaquil, three Ecuadorean lines connect these cities: CEA, AREA, and LIA (Línea Internacional Aerea). The last-mentioned airline makes roundtrip flights from Guayaquil to the Galápagos Islands at a nominal cost. A number of small domestic airlines based in Guayaquil provide air services along the coast and into the coastal provinces, operating largely on a nonscheduled basis; several other carriers fly routes from the highlands into the Oriente. Private individuals or groups may arrange charter flights to jungle areas and isolated places.

Travelers with sufficient leisure, who prefer to tour the country overland, may hire a private car and chauffeur, or travel between various cities by regular buses or *colectivos* (small buses). Trains from Guayaquil to Quito and San Lorenzo leave from Durán, across the Guayas River from Guayaquil; passengers are transported by launch to Durán. In addition, there is a 13-hour service between Guayaquil and Quito on self-propelled single

coach trains. Detailed travel information may be obtained from local travel agencies or from the Government Tourist Bureau (Departamento de Turismo) in Guayaquil or Quito. Special services for tourists are provided by private associations such as the Metropolitan Touring Agency and the Ecuadorean Touring Agency, which arrange for sightseeing tours and short trips accompanied by interpreters.

Currency and Prices

The rate of exchange (as of August 1960) was approximately 17 sucres to the U.S. dollar, but is subject to change. Prices, on the whole, are reasonable. The average charge for a first-class hotel room with private bath is about $6.00 a day; for a longer stay, there are special rates. Meals vary from two to three dollars, depending upon the type of restaurant and section of the country; a light breakfast costs about 60 cents. Tipping is normally 10 per cent of the bill and there is a tax of three per cent for the benefit of the Red Cross.

Hotels and Restaurants

The hotels of Ecuador's principal cities and resorts provide good, comfortable accommodations. In addition to the international cuisine offered by the larger hotels and restaurants, there are many delicious dishes typical of the country. These include different varieties of *tamales, quimbolitos* being a favorite; *llapingachos,* a cheese and potato cake sometimes served with a fried egg on top; a potato soup called *locro;* and *empanadas,* a fried pastry filled with meat, corn, or cheese. Seafood dishes served throughout the country are delicious, particularly *seviche;* a specialty of coastal cookery is *sancocho,* a cross between a glorified stew and soup. The *chirymoya* is one of the most delicious of Ecuador's varied and unusual fruits. *Naranjilla* juice is a favorite drink and hot chocolate is unsurpassed.

Handicrafts

Fortunately, the ancient arts of textile-weaving and handcarving have been preserved to the present. In addition to Ecuador's famous "Panama" hats, there are many attractive and useful articles on sale at shops and in native markets. The Otavalo Indians make beautiful woolen blankets, ponchos, shawls, and suit material resembling English tweed. Fine rugs are made in other parts of the country. One may also buy strong willow baskets, finely woven place mats, coasters, and cigaret cases; miniature items carved from the vegetable ivory of the tagua nuts; tortoise-shell articles; charming dolls in native dress; airplane models of balsa wood; handsome pieces carved from rare hardwoods; and many small souvenirs.

This self-propelled, single-coach train travels between Guayaquil and Quito

Suitable Clothing

Your travel wardrobe should include light summer clothing for visits to the tropical regions of Ecuador and warmer clothing for the highlands, where a woolen suit, sweater, and topcoat will be comfortable at different times of the day. Quito's springlike climate is warm at midday and chilly after sundown.

Population: 4,169,204*
Capital: Quito
Official language: Spanish

Unit of currency: the *sucre* (equal to about $.06 U.S.)
National Tree: *Cinchona succirubra*, source of quinine
Flag: Three horizontal stripes of yellow, blue, and red

* Official estimate, June 1959

Provinces	Area in square kilometers [1]	Population [2]	Capital	Population [3]
(Highlands)				
Pichincha	16,768	463,812	Quito	402,000
Azuay	7,799	315,008	Cuenca	62,000
Chimborazo	6,161	275,461	Riobamba	40,000
Loja	11,494	293,454	Loja	26,000
Tungurahua	3,204	231,112	Ambato	42,000
Cotopaxi	4,614	204,341	Latacunga	32,000
Imbabura	4,803	177,813	Ibarra	25,000
Bolívar	3,216	141,340	Guaranda	20,000
Cañar	2,677	122,284	Azogues	18,000
Carchi	3,582	96,990	Tulcán	19,000
(Coastal Region)				
Esmeraldas	15,886	100,571	Esmeraldas	20,000
Manabí	18,923	569,049	Portoviejo	28,000
Los Ríos	5,937	205,637	Babahoyo	17,000
Guayas	21,259	772,994	Guayaquil	610,000
El Oro	5,925	121,029	Machala	12,000
Galápagos Islands	7,844	1,790		
(Oriente)				
Napo	Undetermined	18,000	Tena	4,600
Pastaza		16,000	Puyo	6,500
Zamora-Chinchipe		5,601	Zamora	1,100
Morona-Santiago		18,868	Macas	3,000

[1] One square kilometer equals 0.3861 square miles
[2] Official estimates, June 1959
[3] Almanaque Mundial, 1959

Drilling for oil in the Oriente

FOREIGN TRADE OF ECUADOR BY AREAS
(In millions of dollars)*

Countries and Areas	IMPORTS						EXPORTS					
	1957		1958		1959		1957		1958		1959	
	Dollars	%	Dollars	%	Dollars	%	Dollars	%	Dollars	%	Dollars	%
United States	45.9	46.6	45.8	44.8	42.1	43.8	79.3	57.9	76.2	55.7	87.0	61.0
Canada	2.5	2.5	4.0	3.9	4.6	4.8	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.3
Other American countries	16.6	16.9	15.4	15.1	15.4	16.0	15.9	11.6	12.9	9.4	12.1	8.5
Europe	31.4	31.9	34.5	33.8	31.3	32.6	40.3	29.4	45.4	33.2	40.1	28.1
Asia	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.4	1.1	0.8	2.2	1.6	2.8	2.0
Africa & Australia	—	—	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	—	—	0.1	0.1
Totals	98.5	100.0	102.2	100.0	96.1	100.0	137.1	100.0	136.9	100.0	142.6	100.0

* Does not include gold exports

Source: Central Bank of Ecuador

EXPORT TRADE OF ECUADOR

	1958		1959	
	Millions of Dollars	% of the Total	Millions of Dollars	% of the Total
Bananas	72.9	53.0	88.9	62.0
Coffee	26.3	19.1	17.5	12.2
Cacao	20.4	14.8	21.8	15.2
Rice	3.5	2.5	2.3	1.6
Sugar	1.2	0.9	2.1	1.5
Sea food	3.7	2.7	3.9	2.7
Balsa	1.5	1.1	1.5	1.0
Pharmaceutical products	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.5
Other products*	7.4	5.4	4.7	3.3
Total	137.6	100.0	143.4	100.0

* Includes gold exports

Source: Central Bank of Ecuador

27 Jun '63
13 Dec '63

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The Organization of American States (OAS) is an international organization created by the 21 American republics to achieve an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence. The member states are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The ideal of Western Hemisphere unity was conceived by the Liberator Simón Bolivar and found its first expression in the Treaty of Union signed at the Congress of Panama in 1826. The present organization is an outgrowth of the International Union of American Republics, created in 1890 during the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C.

The inter-American system was reorganized and given its present name in a Charter adopted at the Ninth International Conference of American States (Bogotá, Colombia, 1948). The Charter brought together the principles of American law that had developed during the preceding years; it also specified the organs or agencies through which the Organization was to accomplish its purposes. The OAS now functions through six principal organs:

PAN AMERICAN UNION · WASHINGTON D. C.

1. The Inter-American Conference, supreme organ of the Organization, which meets every five years to decide general action and policy.
2. The Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which meets on request to consider problems of an urgent nature and of common interest, and which serves as the Organ of Consultation to deal with threats to the peace and security of the Continent.
3. The Council, which is composed of one representative from each state. It may act provisionally as Organ of Consultation. The Council has three organs: the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, the Inter-American Council of Jurists, and the Inter-American Cultural Council.
4. The Pan American Union, which is the central and permanent organ and General Secretariat of the OAS, with headquarters in Washington, D.C.
5. The Inter-American Specialized Conferences, which deal with special technical matters and develop specific aspects of inter-American cooperation.
6. The Inter-American Specialized Organizations, which have specific functions with respect to technical matters of common interest to the American states. There are six such agencies: The Inter-American Children's Institute, the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Inter-American Indian Institute, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, the Pan American Health Organization, and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History.

Through these organs and agencies, the OAS functions effectively to strengthen the peace and security of the Continent; to prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure the pacific settlement of disputes; to provide for common action in the event of aggression; to seek the solution of political, juridical, and economic problems that may arise among the American states; and to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social and cultural development.

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